

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

A very wet spring has passed and the long hot days of summer are here. The annual pastime of finding ways to stay cool is a high priority for most individuals. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

Recent storm water problems at Redwood Lake in Clarks Run and on St. Mary's Avenue have required major repairs to replace old piping that has worn out over time. The repairs are not inexpensive and there are other areas in the Town that will require work in the near term. The necessity for the storm water fee on your quarterly utility bills becomes more apparent when you see the work that is actually being performed.

The maintenance of the streets and roads that are owned by the Town is a major responsibility and concern of the Council. As has been reported previously, the Town has historically utilized the allocation of gasoline excise taxes collected and distributed by the State. We have received in excess of \$400,000 in a fiscal year as our appropriate allocation but the past four fiscal years the State of Maryland allowed only 10 to 25% of the prior allocation and utilized the trust fund taxes for other purposes. This has substantially impacted our ability to continue the road overlay program of the Town. This year the State legislature approved local governments to essentially

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La Plata receives Banner Town designation for the sixth 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, 2012 and May 25, 2013. The Council has already begun working toward next year's requirements.

Chief Cassin "Casey" Gittings Thanked by Town Council



On May 28, 2013 the Mayor and Council thanked Police Chief Cassin "Casey" Gittings for 14 years of service and presented him with a Town Seal. Chief Gittings retired in early June. Following the business meeting a reception was held to say thank you for his service to the community.



Mayor Hale looks on as Chief Gittings displays his Town of La Plata clock.



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Town of La Plata

Conservation Corner

Water Waste

When thinking about water conservation the first place that people look is to the major water consumers. Irrigation, appliances, and high flow faucets are often the



items addressed most. Many have taken the big steps to replace old washers with more water efficient ones. Faucet and shower heads have been replaced to low flow options. Landscaping has been managed to provide drought resistant plants, so irrigation is not needed.

With all of the large options for water conservation taken, people then look for things that can make a smaller impact. One of those that many people don't think about is the toilet. Of course toilets today have low volume tanks, or you have taken steps to reduce the volume of water available in the tank for each flush. What people often miss is that there are two places where water goes when

a tank refills. Water flows back into the tank after a flush, but water also flows through a small hose to refill the bowl.

As the tank is refilling, water flows through a small hose into a vertical pipe in your tank. That water goes to replace the water spot in your bowl. The challenge with this is that the bowl will only hold a certain amount of water. As the tank continues to refill, the additional water that is directed into the bowl will simply overflow down into the sewer. With each flush, extra fresh water overflows the bowl to be wasted down the sewer.

There are a couple things that can be done to mitigate this. If you need to replace the fill valve on the inside of your tank, there are brands available that have a flow control built onto the hose that refills the bowl. After you install the new fill valve, you simply need to adjust the flow control so the water in the bowl reaches its limit at the same time your tank stops.

If you do not need to replace the fill valve, you can direct the fill valve hose away from the vertical pipe in the tank. The water will then fill the tank faster and you will have a smaller water spot in the bowl. With some adjusting of the clasp, the small hose can be directed so a portion of the water will go to the bowl and a portion toward the tank. Experiment with this, and you will save a little bit more water with each flush.

ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Town of La Plata contracts with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to provide mosquito control. The Maryland Department of Agriculture recognizes that the annoyance caused by moderate to large numbers of mosquitoes can adversely impact the quality of life for citizens and visitors in Maryland. Control of populations of mosquitoes in residential areas will be conducted in accordance with its policy.

Tips to Rid La Plata of Mosquito Breeding Sites

- ◆ Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
- ◆ Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.
- ◆ Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them upside down when not in use.

- ◆ Turn over or remove clay pots and plastic containers.
- ◆ Dispose of all empty beverage containers, plastic wrappers, discarded toys, etc.
- ◆ Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
- ◆ Replace water in bird baths at least twice a week.
- ◆ Remove pet food and water dishes that are not being used.
- ◆ Don't leave garbage can lids lying upside down. Be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans.
- ◆ Flush water in the bottom of plant holders twice a week.
- ◆ Fix dripping outside water faucets.
- ◆ Turn wheelbarrows upside down when stored outside.
- ◆ Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.
- ◆ Check ornamental ponds, tree holes and water-holding low areas for mosquito larvae.
- ◆ If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Report such conditions to the Mosquito Control Office at cantwema@mda.state.md.us or (410) 841-5870.
- ◆ Get more information from http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/mosquito_control/index.php

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.

EXPLORER AWARDS



Chuck Loscocco, Boy Scouts Commissioner and Post Captain, President Sarah Sires

Loscocco, Boy Scouts Commissioner, presented to the Post Captain, President Sarah Sires, the Honor Award to Explorer Post 1888 for the Zekiah District (Charles County and lower Prince George's County) by The National Capital Area Council Boy Scouts of America. The award is based on criteria of recruitment, charter renewal, training, service, membership, and leadership. A blue ribbon was given for this award which may be a fixed from a flag of the Post.

At the May 18th La Plata Police Department Explorer Post 1888 meeting, Chuck

Also at the meeting Cpl. Jason Posey, Explorer Post Advisor was awarded the Shield of Service Award in recognition of

distinguished service for the Zekiah District by The National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. This award recognizes Advisors and Troop leaders with outstanding service. Exploring is a youth career orientated program sponsored by the La Plata Police and the Boy Scouts of America. The Town's Law Enforcement Explorer Post is open to any young men and women between the ages of 14 (and graduated the 8th grade) and 20 years old who are interested in policing. If interested in joining please contact Advisor Cpl. Jason Posey #617 at jhposey@townoflaplata.org or (301) 934-1500 ext. 617.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Building Permits issued 5/1/13-6/30/13

UMCRM - Interior renovation of physicians lounge & Echo Cardio Stress Lab - 5 Garrett Ave

CCNRC - Interior renovation - resident rooms - 10210 La Plata Road

ExpoAmerica - 204 Washington Avenue

Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 5/1/13-6/30/13

Affordable Storage - 2 N. La Plata Court
One Main Financial - 226 Rosewick Road

The Phoenix Radio - 602 Charles Street
Discovery Academy - 606 E. Charles Street
Charles County Rescue Squad - 2 Calvert Street
UMCRM - exam rooms - 5 Garrett Avenue
Irving Harris Photography - 6257 Crain Highway
ExpoAmerica - 204 Washington Avenue
ExpoAmerica - 305B Centennial Street
Facchina - office space - 102 Centennial Street, Suite 102

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

receive 50% funding. It is estimated to be about \$180,000; however that has not been communicated from the State.

Unfortunately, it is more complex in its application as local governments will not receive any of the funding from the State's recently enacted increase in the motor fuel tax that become effective on July 1st. The Town will evaluate road maintenance needs at the time funds are actually received to determine which areas have the highest priority. According to the Town's most recent Citizens Survey the majority of La Plata residents oppose the Town using local funding for road maintenance. While this is a valid preference of La Plata residents, this position may run counter to keeping our roads and streets in good condition. Only time will tell.

Our 4th of July Watermelon Bash was a great success based upon comments received from those who attended this annual event. The weather was perfect, maybe a little warm, but the Fire Department's water spray helped to alleviate the heat. A strong attendance helped to make the Bash a good time for all. The Town Yard Sales and our Friday Night Concert Series continue to bring opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy our Town sponsored event program.

As your Mayor, I am always interested in your comments, both favorable and unfavorable. 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:

Labor Day **Monday, September 2, 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 is on the first Saturday of each month,



CHARLES COUNTY
**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Charles County Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station Road in La Plata. Household hazardous waste collection is a contracted service and items cannot be accepted when the contractor is not on site.

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:

Monday, September 2, 2013

Special Pick-Up

Monday, September 9, 2013

Yard Waste Pick Up

No pick up on Monday, September 2, 2013

Recycling

Wednesday, September 4 but may be delayed until September 5.

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

NEW RECYCLING CONTAINERS:



The new blue 95 gallon recycling containers on wheels with closing lids are available. 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.

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.

Diesel Fuel

When the Town relocated Public Works to a new facility on Crain Highway the Town was able to utilize an existing building that better met the space needs of the department, with room to expand in the future if needed. One of the extra benefits of the site was an existing fuel storage tank. While in need of some minor repairs, the

Town has been able to use the tank for diesel fuel. The Town's trash trucks, large trucks, and other equipment utilize diesel fuel, and the ability to fill up on site aids in consumption management as well as ease of fueling. Not having to fill up at commercial vendors limits the need to navigate tight fueling stations, but also reduces the Town's susceptibility to price fluctuations of the market.

Since the Town can purchase its diesel fuel in bulk, there is some opportunity to time purchases when prices are on a downward trend. The bulk purchase also allows the Town to avoid retail markup on the fuel. With control of fuel purchases and not relying on the retail market the Town gets savings and additional benefits. In the event of emergency situations the Town has access to a fuel supply for times that could be stressed in the retail market.

SEPTEMBER 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

Labor Day
Town Hall Closed
No trash pick up;
pick up 9/3

2

No yard waste pick up
No special pick up;
pick up 9/10

3

Trash pick up from 9/2
Planning Commission
meeting; 7:00 p.m.

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.
Recycling may be
delayed 

5

Recycling pick up may
continue from 9/4



Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert: US Navy Band
"The Commodores";
7:00 p.m.

6


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

7

8

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick up; please
call Town Hall by 4:00 pm
9/6 to be put on list

9

Town Council work
session; 7:00 p.m.

10


Farmers Market
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Parks and Recreation
Commission meetings;
5:00 p.m.

11

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



13


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

14

15

Yard Waste Pick Up
Beautification
Commission
meeting; 4:00 p.m. 

16

Town Council work
session; 7:00 p.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
Concert: "Lionel Ward
& the New World band";
7:00 p.m.



20


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

21

22

23

24



25

26



27



28

First Day of Fall

Yard Waste Pick Up

Town Council
Business meeting;
7:00 p.m.

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

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert: US Navy Band
"The Cruisers"; 7:00 p.m.

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

29

30

Yard Waste Pick Up

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Fun at Town Hall

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



Marvelous original music and colorful puppetry animate the world of science through the one subject that ignites everyone's imagination: dinosaurs! Award-winning artists Ingrid Crepeau and Michele Valeri present interactive programs children will long remember. Combining original music with

colorful puppets - rod, hand, full body, and marionette - to animate the world of science, Ingrid Crepeau and Michele Valeri produce paleontological poetry through interactive musical programs. In keeping with current discoveries, DinoRock's dinosaur shows have been reviewed for accuracy by the head of education at the Boston Science Museum. *Dinosaur Babies* playfully explores human and dinosaur babies' similarities and environmental effects on dinosaur adaptability.

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 August 2nd: 7PM to 9PM

Cover Story Band — Classic & Contemporary Rock

Friday August 9th: 7PM to 9PM

Three Sixty Band — Rock n' Roll, Country, Disco, Funk, & Pop

Friday August 16th: 7PM to 9PM

N2N Band — R&B/Motown

Friday August 23rd: 7PM to 9PM

Southern Maryland Concert Band — Concert Band Favorites & Show tune Instrumentals

Friday August 30th: 7PM to 9PM

R&R Train — Rock

Friday September 6th: 7PM

US Navy Band The Commodores — Jazz

Friday September 13th: 7PM to 9PM

Eric Scott Band — Acoustic soul/pop

Friday September 20th: 7PM to 9PM

Lionel Ward & the New World Band — Elvis and Oldies

Friday September 27th: 7PM

US Navy Band The Cruisers — Jazz, R&B, Classic Rock, Contemporary, & Pop

Mid Summer Concert Survey

We are just over halfway through this season's Friday Night Concerts at Town Hall. We would appreciate getting your feedback on the bands and the event itself. The survey is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PKT8J2J> and a link to the survey is also available on the Event page at www.townoflaplata.org. Your opinion matters to us and the Town wants you, your families, and the entire community to have enjoyable experiences this year and for many years to come.



Thanks to all who attended the Watermelon Bash on July 4th!



Yard Sale

The next Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday October 5th from 8 am to Noon 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.

Save the Date for the Fall Festival

LA PLATA Fall Festival

Sunday, October 13th from 12 pm to 3 pm at Town Hall

Family fun and games

Live music from the Sara Gray Band, craft vendors & displays, and delicious food for sale



Town of La Plata Memorial Day Ceremony

The Town of La Plata held the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 27 at 11 am at Town Hall. The ceremony honored the men and women who died while in the military service. Command Master Chief, Jim Honea, from Naval Support Activity South Potomac was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

The ceremony began with a blessing from Reverend Father John Reutemann of Sacred Heart Church. The La Plata NJROTC was on hand to present the colors and Katie Sheldon 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, and La Plata Police Department and Explorers. The Schubert Singers of Christ Church performed patriotic selections and Bill Foreman ended the ceremony by performing Taps.



“Memorial Day is a day to honor those that have sacrificed their lives for our country and the freedoms we enjoy every day. These are freedoms that many of us don’t even think about but are possible because of men and women who serve our great country,” said Mayor Roy Hale.

For more information on the Town of La Plata Special Events, contact Colleen Wilson at (301) 934-8421 ext 142 or CWilson@TownofLaPlata.org

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:

The majority of La Plata residents work outside of Charles County. What value per year would you place on the ability to work in La Plata instead of your current commute?

- \$0 to \$1,000
- \$1,001 to \$2,500
- \$2,501 to \$5,000
- \$5,001 to \$10,000
- Over \$10,000

June Website Poll Results

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

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

- all gainfully employed. - 2%
- employed, but not to their potential. - 14%
- working part time. - 0%
- looking for work. - 20%

continuing their education in place of work. - 64%

It is a difficult time in the nation’s economy. For years, new home sales have suffered, property has lost value, many jobs have been lost, and people face protracted periods of unemployment. Despite stock prices that have recently rebounded, many have seen investments erode because of poor market timing, or the need to utilize savings. In this area unemployment has not been as significant as other parts of the country, due in large part to the economy being supported by federal employment and society support services like medicine and education which are all strong employers in the area.

The economy insulator of the federal government is not working like it once had, due to the ongoing impacts of sequestration. Many federal contracts have ended or been put on hiatus, and the region’s federal employees have been given furlough days to save personnel costs for the federal government. Cuts at the federal level have a local impact and stores, restaurants, service providers, and others who depend on the large federal employee base as customers will no doubt feel the impact.

While all of this is going on, the children of our community continue to grow up, graduate from school, and enter the workforce.

From the snap poll results, many continue their education to provide experience and knowledge that will allow them to compete better for those limited employment options. This is a challenging time to begin a career, and that leaves families with adult children at home longer and more pressure for young adults to look for employment far away from where they grew up.

As a safe, attractive, and welcoming place for people to live, La Plata is also a safe, attractive, and welcoming place to do business. La Plata is an economic and employment center for Charles County. Many of the businesses that have chosen to locate here do so to provide service to the residential population. Over time this will change as those with an entrepreneurial spirit will look to their hometown as a place to start a new venture to avoid the commute out of the County or to replace the income for lost employment. External forces can have a profound impact on this Town and the landscape for employment and business opportunities will change just as the economy continues to change.



TOWN OF LA PLATA 2011 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT PWSID: 008 0025

Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2011. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of the Town of La Plata.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely conducts sanitary surveys, inspections and monitoring for all public water systems. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, please contact the Director of Operations for *La Plata Water Treatment Plant* at (301) 934-8421.

The water for the Town of La Plata pumped from five wells, each is over 1000 feet deep. Four wells are located in the Lower Patapsco aquifer and the other well is located in the Upper Patapsco formation. After the water is pumped out of the well, we adjust the pH and add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call Maryland *Environmental Service* at (410)729-8350.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at

risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the *Safe Drinking Water Hotline* (1-800-426-4791).

Special points of interest:

The Town of La Plata Drinking Water met all of the State and Federal requirements. Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the *Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline* (1-800-426-4791).

Definitions:

- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ◆ **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ◆ **Turbidity** - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of "cloudiness" of the water.
- ◆ **NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units**. Units of measurement used to report the level of turbidity or "cloudiness" in the water.
- ◆ **pCi/l** - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.
- ◆ **ppb** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- ◆ **ppm** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter.



Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed EPA's MCL	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant			
Well 5 - Kent Ave on Kent Square -Plant I.D. 01			
Fluoride (2009 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	920 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Beta (2010 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	8.5 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Well 8 - Box Elder Road -Plant I.D. 04			
Fluoride Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	900 ppb	4000 ppb
Di (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate (2006 testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Discharge from rubber and/or chemical factories	6 ppb	1.1 ppb	0 ppb
Gross Alpha (2009 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	2.1 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2009 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	1.0 pCi/l	N/A
Well 9 - Clarks Run on Silver Linden Drive -Plant I.D. 05			
Fluoride (2011 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	910 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2008 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	7 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Gross Beta (2008 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	2 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2008 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	0.2 pCi/l	N/A
Well 10 - Washington Ave. - Plant I.D. 06			
Fluoride (2011 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	1.12 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2008 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	11 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Gross Beta (2008 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	3 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2008 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	4.6 pCi/l	N/A
Well 11 - Rosewick Crossing - Plant I.D. 07			
Fluoride (2008 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Water additive that promotes strong teeth, erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	960 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2010 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	4.9 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2010 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	0.3 pCi/l*	N/A
* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles			
** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required			

Regulated in the Distribution	Action Level	Highest Level	Ideal Goal
Copper (2011 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: corrosion of household plumbing	1300 ppb (90th percentile)	275 ppb	1300 ppb
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2011 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb	1.7 ppb	n/a

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2011.

The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Important information about Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 11 pCi/l which is below the 15 pCi/l.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Lead Prevention

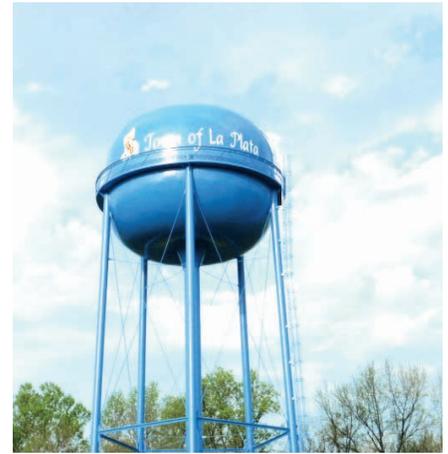
If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems,

especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of La Plata is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the ***EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426.4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>***.

Special Points of Interest

Maryland has a limited amount of potable water available from underground aquifers to serve the residents of Southern Maryland. The Town of La Plata has invested in several innovative technologies to help meet future needs, while conserving our natural resources. A new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) has been installed to automate the Town's water meter reading and billing system. The Town no longer incurs the expense of sending personnel to read water meters. In the future, residents will have access to their account information over the internet.

In the near future, the new AMI system will enable the utility customers to set alerts to notify them of potential leaks in the system so they can



eliminate them as soon as possible. The Town will also be able to set up leak detection on system mains to reduce major problems of leaking pipes under Town roadways. Utility customers are requested to ensure their phone and email contact information with utility billing are up to date by calling the Town at (301) 934-8421 or emailing cjohnson@townoflaplata.org.

Over the past few years the Town has invested in new technology, infrastructure and training of its personnel to improve the services we provide. In our attempt to reduce waste and maintain the highest quality water, we have become one of the Nation's most technologically advanced water systems. We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of La Plata and encourage anyone to contact us with questions or concerns.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Jay Janney at (410) 729-8350 or email your request to jjann@menv.com.



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