

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

April 28th was the eighth anniversary of the tornado that swept through La Plata with such force that it changed the Town from a growing, vibrant community to one with piles of rubble in the downtown and a future that was uncertain. The affect of this storm on individual lives, livelihoods, and personal property was, to say the least, traumatic. Accordingly, it is very appropriate to take some time for reflection and to remember the day and the people who were most affected by this category four tornado. The recent tornadoes that swept through the South, especially Yazoo County, Mississippi, helps to bring this front and center once again and to demonstrate the life-changing force these storms have on individual lives and communities in which they live.

We also have cause for celebration, which is the reason we recently held our "Celebrate La Plata" event. From the rubble, as extensive as it was, came a rebirth of our Town. It is not the tornado that prompts the celebration, it is the miracle that is La Plata. Eight short years have seen the rise of numerous new buildings and streetscapes. People have elected to stay in La Plata and rebuild their lives and their businesses which have been the catalyst to attract new business. Our strong base of county facilities, churches, shopping, and dining opportunities causes La Plata to be a destination and a place people enjoy visiting. A lot has happened in eight short years, and this is a cause for celebration. I trust that most who read this column will agree.

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La Plata Assists with Community Clean Up Days



Councilman Joe Norris and residents of Hemlock Court spent a Saturday morning in April making their neighborhood beautiful.



The Town along with members of the Teen Court, local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts assisted residents of the Patuxent Court neighborhood clean up near and around the GSX railroad tracks.

La Plata is a beautiful Town and it takes a lot of work to keep it that way. A street sweeper cleans downtown once per week, sanitation crews remove trash, recycling, bulk items, and yard waste. People in the community lend a hand as well, walkers pick up trash as they walk and property owners work to keep their areas clean. A lot of things work against a clean community as well, unfortunately some people litter, waste can blow out of trash containers and dumpsters, and other things get dumped or carelessly left. In La Plata's case, we have some areas that still contain debris from when the tornado blew through eight years ago that has not been picked up from wooded areas and along wetlands.

Some neighborhoods have gotten together to organize cleanup days and the Town of La Plata can assist those groups. In the past the Town has assisted Clark's Run, Hemlock Court, Patuxent Court, and Phoenix Run, who have all organized cleanup days. The Town can provide dumpsters free of charge for organized events, and depending on the level of neighborhood commitment, we can assist in coordinating outside volunteer groups, provide Public Works staff, and bring a Town trash truck or other equipment.

In March, residents on Patuxent Court got together with scouts and other volunteers to clean up the neighborhood, park, along the railroad tracks, and along Glen Albin. The Town was able to provide dumpsters, a trash truck, and other equipment to assist the community in this large effort. In April, Hemlock Court had a few residents get together to clean up in wooded areas where there remains a lot of tornado debris, and along the street and in public areas. The Town provided a dumpster which was more than filled. On June 5th, the residents in the Kent Avenue Corridor will stage a massive cleanup day with the assistance of the Town, Charles County Sheriff's Office, Teen Court, local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

If you would like to have a cleanup day in your neighborhood simply get a commitment of your neighbors and contact Mary Trollinger at (301) 934-8421 or via email at mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org to find out how the Town can assist. The Town can provide trash bags, gloves, dumpsters, and sometimes more for large community efforts. Please do your part to help keep La Plata beautiful.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLS)

The Hawthorne Greene neighborhood has been working to improve their energy and water efficiency through a Green Grant from the Town of La Plata, and hosting educational sessions for their residents. I recently spoke to the residents there about energy efficiency, and particularly Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs. While they are becoming much more commonplace, people still have a number of questions about CFL's. What is a CFL? How do they work? Are they worth it? Are there any safety concerns? How do I dispose of them? I would like to share some responses I have researched from EnergyStar and the Maryland Department of the environment.

How they work.

CFLs produce light differently than incandescent bulbs. In an incandescent, electric current runs through a wire filament and heats the filament until it starts to glow. In a CFL, an electric current is driven through a tube containing argon and a small amount of mercury vapor. This generates invisible ultra-violet light that excites a fluorescent coating (called phosphor) on the inside of the tube, which then emits visible light.

CFLs need a little more energy when they are first turned on, but once the electricity starts moving, use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. A CFL's ballast helps "kick start" the CFL and then regulates the current once the electricity starts flowing.

Are they worth it?

CFLs have several advantages over incandescent light bulbs. They last 8-10 times longer, use about 75% less energy, and produce 90% less heat while delivering more light per watt. For example, a 25-watt CFL provides about 1800 lumens, compared to 1750 lumens from a 100-watt incandescent lamp.

Use of CFLs reduces the need for electricity and therefore reduces the amounts of pollution and address climate change.

Are there safety concerns?

CFLs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base (not the glass), and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. CFLs are safe to use and no mercury is released while the bulbs are in use.

How do I dispose them?

According to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), CFLs should be recycled if possible. Home Depot has

a recycling drop off site in their Waldorf location. If recycling is not an option, a CFL may be placed in the household trash. MDE strongly encourages consumers to take advantage of available local recycling options for CFLs.

Using CFLs is a great way to reduce your energy bill. Start by swapping out lights that you use frequently, this will cause your energy savings to add up more quickly. As your incandescent lights wear out, replace them with CFLs.

Councilman Keith Back, Ward 2

Summer seems to be coming up on us quickly. With that the Town's fiscal year is quickly winding down and the Town Council has been working to complete the budget process for the next fiscal year. The largest priority is to maintain the services that the Town provides to the citizens without increasing the tax rate being paid. This is a challenge in the current economy, but the Town Council has been successful in holding the tax rate to the same level it has been for many years despite cuts in revenues the Town would normally receive from the State of Maryland in the form of a share of Highway User Fees and Police Aid. If you are as concerned as I am about your streets at the local and county level, I would suggest that you write to your State representatives and ask them to restore this funding to the local governments.

On a brighter note, with the coming of the warmer weather the Town has planned many activities for its Citizens to enjoy including the weekly concert series at Town Hall. If you have not attended these concerts or other events held by the Town, I would encourage you to bring a chair or blanket to Town Hall on a Friday night and join many of your friends and neighbors to listen to the variety of music being presented. And as always these events are free to the public and the activities are designed for the whole family. The schedule of events can be found in the Town Newsletter, on the Town website, or in the newly available La Plata schedule of events brochure.

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward 3

Many thanks to Julie Lemmon, Michelle Miner, and all our wonderful staff for making Celebrate La Plata Day a great success! Even the weather cooperated to make it a fun day for all. Please come out and enjoy all our summer events including our Friday concerts, Saturday movies, yard sales, and of course our

July 4th celebration.

Visit our Town parks to enjoy the refurbished tennis and basketball courts as well as our children's play areas. Tilghman Lake Park is a little known and wonderful place for a quiet outing with your family. Pedestrian access to Tilghman Lake Park is gained from the loop trail around Laurel Springs Park.

I hope to see and visit with you at many of these events. Please join our e-mail database to receive notices of importance such as cancellations because of weather. I can always be reached at pmudd@townofaplata.org or at home (301) 934-4804.

Councilman Joseph W. Norris, Ward 4

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. Also on a number of Saturday nights during the summer we will have Screen on the Green presenting movies on the lawn of Town Hall. Check our Website.org for more information. If you have any questions or thoughts concerning any of the events please contact Julie Lemmon our Special Events Coordinator at (301) 934-8421 or jlemmon@townofaplata.org.

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.

As I write this we are continuing to work on the Town of La Plata FY 2010/2011 Budget. The tax rate will remain the same at .32 per \$100 of assessment as it has been for many years. The Council has had to make some difficult 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 some of the new things 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.

Please remember to use the town website www.townofaplata.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@townofaplata.org. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

MARYLAND LIFE MAGAZINE GEOCACHE DASH WINNER!



The Maryland Municipal League, Maryland Geocaching Society, and the Town of La Plata partnered with Maryland Life

Magazine in sponsoring the “Cabin Fever Dash” contest. The contest ran from January 1 to March 15 with participants having to visit Towns in Maryland and locate the specific geocaches. Each participant completing the cache receives a free six-month subscription to Maryland Life Magazine. The winner for the

La Plata cache was, Wanda Frick whose entry was drawn randomly from the completed entries. Ms. Frick will also receive a \$50 gift certificate to The Crossing at Casey Jones. Thank you to all those who participated. Those looking to start Geocaching can find La Plata’s cache and many others in the area.

TENNIS COURTS

La Plata’s Tennis Courts are resurfaced with new nets and open for play. Try them at Wills and Silver Linden Parks.

As part of the continued investment back into the community, the Town of La Plata resurfaced both of its tennis courts this year with the assistance of a Community Parks and Playground Grant from the State of Maryland.

Both the tennis court at Silver Linden Park and the tennis court at Wills Park were resur-

faced and have had new nets installed. With a traditional green surface, and bright white lines, both courts are ready for players both experienced and new to the game. The courts are first come first served, so please be respectful of other players.

The courts represent part of the many ways the Town is reinvesting in its existing infrastructure. Please enjoy these refurbished facilities, and help keep them clean by not leaving behind any trash.

THE KIDS WHO CARE



Collette, Nikki, Jimmy and Katie Lusk, and Karen, Rebecca and Jacob Polis, “The Kids Who Care”, spent part of their spring break cleaning up the Community. They worked to clean up Glen Albin Road, from Mitchell Elementary to the intersection of St. Mary’s Avenue. The La Plata Beautification Commission commends their efforts, and encourages others to follow the example of “The Kids Who Care”.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Independence Day Monday, July 5

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

Paddy Mudd 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

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Director of Inspections: Jorge A. Thompson

Director of Municipal Development:

David M. Jenkins

Director of Planning and Zoning:

Catherine N. Flerlage

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

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

Join our Community Events E-mail List

The Town of La Plata Special Events Coordinator is updating the e-mail list in order to notify residents of upcoming events. If you are interested in hearing about community yard sales, concerts, movies, and other events, please submit your e-mail address to Julie Lemmon, jlemmon@townoflaplata.org.

MAYOR'S CORNER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Time does not stand still and neither does your Town. We are moving ahead and I believe in the right direction. Our emphasis on improvements to our infrastructure is extremely important to keep our services operating efficiently and effectively. Recent upgrades to our parks provide better services to our residents and a study to thoroughly access our park and recreation needs now and for the future is underway. Our community based events are still strong and growing. We will soon begin our summer concert series that is a long tradition of our Town. These concerts together with our Memorial Day Service, 4th of July Celebration, and other events help bring our community together and make it stronger.

In May, I will complete my first year in office as your elected mayor. It is an honor and pleasure to serve in this office and play a role in helping La Plata remain a vibrant community in which we all have a source of pride in saying, La Plata is our home. The ability of the Town Council to work together to solve problems and plan for the future, and the highly dedicated and professional Town Staff leads me to believe that the best is yet to come.

As your Mayor, I will always welcome your comments, be they positive or critical. You can reach me at the Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection days for 2010 resumed the first Saturday in April and continue on the first Saturday of each month through December from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Charles County Sanitary Landfill on Billingsley Road East between Piney Church Road and Route 5 in Waldorf.

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.

Household hazard waste collection dates during 2010 are: June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.

For more information, call the Charles County Department of Public Facilities at (301)

932-3599 or (301) 870-2778, or the landfill information service at (301) 932-5656.

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. Minimum fee: \$11.75 for 5 minutes loading time; each additional minute is \$1.10. A fee of \$6.00, or the current Landfill disposal fee, shall be charged for each tire collected. Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.

Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pickup will only take place on Monday and Fridays. Containers must be 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 50 lbs. 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, July 5

Trash will be picked up on:
Tuesday, July 6

COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Residents of La Plata have an opportunity to provide input into the Town's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan (CPRMP). The CPRMP is intended to guide the Town as it moves from its existing parks and recreation system to the desired parks system of La Plata's future that can be a major contributor to the Town's quality of life in its vision as one of Maryland's premier communities.

The Town completed an update to its Comprehensive Plan in October 2009, which includes an Open Space and Recreation Element. Initiation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan implements a key objective of this Plan element.

The CPRMP will provide an inventory and mapping of existing parks/recreation facilities, recommend future parks and recreation areas, recreation concept plans of uses, an operating

plan and capital improvement plan linked to implementation benchmarks, based on the Town's projected population growth over the next twenty years.

Specific work tasks include the following: Existing Conditions, Needs Inventory and Assessment, Public Input, Benchmarking (input from comparable towns across Maryland and from Charles County), Implementation Strategies, and Potential Regulatory change recommendations. Public input will be sought during development and a draft plan will then be provided at public meetings and hearings for additional public input prior to Planning Commission and Town Council public hearings.

A Public Meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday June 23rd beginning at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall to obtain input from residents,

community associations or their representatives, sports groups, youth leaders, senior citizen groups, arts groups, teen groups, bicycle groups, and natural resource interest groups. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain valuable input into the needs assessment of what they would like to see in a future Town park and recreation system.

[To get community feedback a survey is located on the Town's website that will gauge the community's needs for parks and recreation. Please go to <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and follow the link to the Park Survey.](http://www.townoflaplata.org)

Additional information and study progress will be provided on the Town's web site or contact David M. Jenkins, AICP, Director of Municipal Development at (301) 934-8421, Ext 117 or djenkins@townoflaplata.org.

Employment Opportunity

Farmer's Market Master

Looking for a friendly, reliable, and interested individual to work a limited number of part-time hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays coordinating La Plata's Farmer's Market. Duties include reviewing applications of any potential sellers, issue permits, collect fees, assign space to sellers, maintain market cleanliness, and enforce the market regulations. Please forward a letter of interest to Town Hall, Michelle Miner, P.O. Box 2268, La Plata, Md 20646 or mminer@townoflaplata.org. The Town of La Plata is an Equal Opportunity employer. We will begin reviewing letters of interest June 7, 2010.

JUNE 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	May 31 Town Hall closed Memorial Day Ceremony, 11:00 a.m. No Yard Waste Pick Up	1 Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	2 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council; 7:30 p.m.	3	4 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: band to be announced; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	5 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Phoenix Run clean up
6	7 Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (call by 4:00 p.m. June 4 to schedule)	8 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	9 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Meeting; 5:00 p.m.	10	11 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: US Navy Band "Commodores"; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	12 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Movie "Rudy" rated PG; 8:30 p.m.
13	14 Yard Waste Pick Up	15 Town 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	18 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: "Sweetwater Band"; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	19 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
20	21 Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	22 Town Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	23 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Input; 7:00 p.m.	24	25 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: "Nuttin Fancy"; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	26 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
27	28 Yard Waste Pick Up	29	30 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.			

JULY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: "Special Blend"; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	2	3 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
4 July 4th Watermelon Bash; 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	5 Town Hall closed No Yard Waste Pick up No Special Pick up	6 Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	7 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council; 7:30 p.m.	8	9 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: US Naval Academy "Next Wave"; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	10 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Movie "Where the Wild Things Are" rated PG; 8:30 p.m.
11	12 Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick-Up (call by 4:00 p.m. July 9 to schedule)	13 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	14 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Meeting; 5:00 p.m.	15	16 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: "Steve Potter Blues Band"; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	17 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Community Yard Sale; 8:00 a.m. to noon
18	19 Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Meeting; 4:00 p.m.	20 Town Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	21 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	22	23 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: US Naval Academy "Electric Brigade"; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	24 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
25	26 Yard Waste Pick Up	27 Town Council regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.	28 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	29	30 Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: "Four of a Kind"	31 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Ice Cream Sundaes with the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny made a special appearance at Town Hall on Monday, April 5th, to share ice cream sundaes with many excited children! Kids of all ages visited Town Hall to visit and take pictures with the Easter Bunny, make their own ice cream sundaes, and make fun crafts. Thank you to the La Plata Key Club for helping with this event!

Celebrate La Plata

Saturday, April 17th, was a beautiful day to "Celebrate La Plata" and that we did as the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs kicked off the event with a player parade! La Plata Mayor, Roy Hale, and the Town Council



joined the Blue Crabs in the parade, as well as Delegate Murphy, and the La Plata Fire Department. Excited baseball fans lined the streets and visited with the players and Pinch at Town Hall for a "meet and greet" and autographs. If you missed the Parade it is available to be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/LaPlataevents>.

The Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids gave a very impressive performance in front of



Town Hall; the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center brought live exhibits for their Raptor program; and the spectators also enjoyed live music by Roadhouse, and a spectacular magic and illusion show by Speed and Thro Magic.

A recycled art show, sponsored by Art Smart Studio was a highlight of the day with many hands-on exhibits, face-painting, and activities geared toward Earth Day. Thank you, Lorina Harris, for bringing your art show to Celebrate La Plata! Other big hits included a rock-climbing wall, giant slide, triple play combo, and pitch and throw!

The Chamber of Commerce Bed Races were great fun to watch with 7 teams competing for alluring prizes, such as the Golden Bed Pan award! The Friends to Elect Rick Campbell team took first place for speed, the Mystery Machine won for most creative and the Charles County Rescue Squad grabbed the Golden Bed Pan award for most losses. If you missed the Bed Races all of them are available to be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/LaPlataEvents>.

The La Plata Police Department had many visitors at their open house, and we thank them for opening their doors and welcoming all the visitors to their station.

Thank you to all who made Celebrate La Plata a success; it was a great start to a spectacular season of events!

Calendar of Events Available

The Town of La Plata Schedule of Events for 2010 is now available. You may download the schedule by visiting our website and clicking on Events, and Calendar of Events. For a paper copy, stop by Town Hall or call or e-mail our Events Coordinator, Julie Lemmon at (301) 934-8421 or jlemmon@townofaplata.org to have one mailed to you.

Summer Concert Series



Summer is right around the corner, and with it comes the Summer Concert Series held every Friday night at La Plata Town Hall, at

7:00 p.m. A variety of bands will be playing oldies but goodies, top hits, bluegrass, and more. Several performances by the United States Navy and Naval Academy Bands are also on the schedule. We invite you to bring a lawn chair or blanket, grab a bite to eat from the food concession trailer behind Town Hall, sit back, and enjoy the sounds of summer! For a complete concert listing, visit <http://www.townofaplata.org> and select Events.



Screen on the Green

Remember those old drive-in movies? Our movies on the green are reminiscent of those days where one could watch a movie under the stars on a beautiful summer evening. We have some great movies lined up for this summer including "Rudy" on Saturday, June 12th; "Where the Wild Things Are" on Saturday, July 10th, and "Up" scheduled for the last Saturday before the start of school on August 21st. Movie start time is 8:30 p.m. Before bringing your family to the movie, please see if it is appropriate with a detailed review at <http://www.kidsinmind.com>.

July 4th Watermelon Bash

A highlight from last summer is returning for 2010. Join us at Town Hall on Sunday, July 4th, to celebrate Independence Day with a "Watermelon Bash" from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Enjoy music, entertainment, and bring your swim suits for the wet and wild "surf and slide". Try your skills on the large, inflatable obstacle course! We'll have watermelon slices and games for everyone. Be certain to enter the watermelon eating contest. The day will be filled with activities, prizes, entertainment, and a great taste of summer. For more information, contact Julie Lemmon at jlemmon@townofaplata.org



Community Yard Sale – July 17

Our summer community yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, July 17th, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Vendor space is available for \$10 for each 10x10 space, with a limit of two spaces per vendor. Participating in the community yard sale is a good way to do some "summer cleaning" as the Town advertises in the Independent and on southern Maryland radio stations. For more information, or to obtain a vendor form, contact Julie Lemmon at (301) 934-8421 or jlemmon@townofaplata.org.

WEBSITE POLL



Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townofaplata.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:

Did you or any other members of your household visit one or more of the listed Town of La Plata owned parks or open space areas in the past year?

Carroll La Plata Village
Clarks Run Natural Area
Hemlock Court
Patuxent Court Mini-Park
Phoenix Run Park
Redwood Lake
Silver Linden Park
Tilghman Lake Park
Town Hall Park
Wills Memorial Park

April Website Poll Results

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

Does the Town of La Plata provide sufficient parks, playgrounds, and recreational programs and facilities?

Strongly Agree – 15%
Somewhat Agree – 24%
Neither Agree nor Disagree – 9%
Somewhat Disagree – 17%
Strongly Disagree – 26%
Don't Know – 9%

Wills, Silver Linden, Caroline Drive, Tilghman Lake, along with many other pocket parks make up the Town of La Plata's park system including playgrounds and recreational facilities. The results of La Plata's latest web poll are split, and that corresponds with the last Citizen Survey which showed just 50% of La Plata residents think the Town's Recreational Opportunities were either Good or Excellent. This is a below the norm response for communities across the Country. La Plata has been making progress in its efforts, as just 40% of residents liked the Town's recreational opportunities in January of 2008.

Parks and Recreation are an important component of resident perceptions of Quality of Life. With the survey responses the Town has been getting, it is clear that La Plata has not been delivering what a majority of the community wants. This spring the Town engaged a consultant to assist the Town and the Parks and Recreation Commission in developing a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

(CPRMP).

The purpose of the plan is to coordinate all of the parks and recreation development for the Town, as it grows in the coming years. An important part of that plan is to ensure that the needs of the community can be met today and in the future.

La Plata residents are needed to assist in developing the parks and recreation needs of the community, and there are two ways you can help do that. First, there is a survey located on the Town's website that will gauge the community's needs for parks and recreation. Please go to <http://www.townofaplata.org> and follow the link to the Park Survey. The information gathered from this survey will be used to develop recommendations to the Town of recreational facilities.

Second, a Public Meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday, June 23rd, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall to obtain input from the community. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend, learn about what the Town currently has to offer, and provide input into the development of the CPRMP. Please come and join your neighbors to plan for La Plata's recreational future.

WILLOW LANE PUMP STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Willow Lane Pump Station and Sanitary Sewer upgrade began on November 10, 2009 when the Town a Notice to Proceed to JLW Associates of Leonardtown, Maryland for the construction of a replacement to the 55 year old Willow Lane sewage pump station at the corner of Willow Lane and Route 6, along with a new force main and gravity main to the Waste Water Treatment Plant west of 301. Construction is expected to be complete by January 1, 2011. JLW mobilized early in December, however, the construction start was hampered by the blizzard of December 18 and subsequent February storms.

The first part of this construction was the installation of sediment controls and site clearing. Nine thousand cubic yards of fill dirt was removed from the site and at the same time the pipe work began along Caroline Drive. By building an entirely new sewer line to the Town's treatment plant, the mains that run through downtown which are over capacity, and reduce the number of untreated sewage overflows that regularly occur today on Willow Lane and Centennial Street.

This project is the main project required by the Maryland Department of the Environment for La Plata to comply with a consent decree requiring a solution to sanitary sewer overflows in Town.

Currently we are excavating the pit for the wet and dry well at the pump station site. This is a massive undertaking as the hole is 45 feet deep and 75 feet wide and over 100 feet long. The good news has been that we have not encountered much ground water. Some of you may have even felt the vibration or heard the noise from the contractor hammering in the sheeting and shoring. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The majority of the construction will take place on private property, however there are several locations where work is being completed within the public right of way. Contractors are presently excavating a pit for the wet and dry well at the pump station site north of Willow Lane. The hole is 45 feet deep, 75 feet wide, and over 100 feet long to accommodate the new pump station.

The pipeline work is showing steady progress as well. All of the pipe work on Caroline Drive and Phoenix Run is complete. Pipe crossing under the CSX railroad track and under Talbot Street are complete. Boring under Route 6 to the existing pump station is currently underway and boring will commence under Rt. 301 will take place after Route 6 is complete. The most significant traffic impact associated with the project will be on Washington Avenue, just north of Talbot Street. This work will occur later this year, and notification will be provided to alert motorists of the construction.

This complex project has involved many stakeholders and the efforts of all involved are providing a significant benefit to the entire La Plata community. The support, understanding, and patience of La Plata residents, businesses, and visitors during construction is appreciated. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Steve Schroeder, Project Manager with the Town of La Plata at (301) 934-8421 or sschroeder@townofaplata.org

FORMER MAYOR BILL ECKMAN WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Former Mayor Bill Eckman is the first recipient of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes elected or appointed city

or town officials who have demonstrated outstanding service to Maryland municipal government. The three-member judges were composed of past presidents of MML. Judging criteria considered included the nominee's participation in the Maryland Municipal League and other municipal and professional organizations, contributions demonstrating significant and outstanding service to the nominees' municipality and MML, leadership in their own community and the degree to which the nominee would be readily identified by colleagues as a role model and example of exceptional public service. Mayor Eckman will be presented this award at the annual MML conference in late June. Scott Hancock, Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, expressed his thoughts by saying, "Mayor Eckman is the perfect 'first recipient' of MML's Lifetime Achievement Award. His tireless commitment to not only his beloved La Plata but to all municipalities in Maryland through his work at MML made it easy for the judges to unanimously choose Bill for this high honor."

Mayor Hale reiterated Mr. Hancock's sentiments, "Mayor Eckman's lifetime achievement award acknowledges what we in La Plata have known for decades. Bill Eckman is a man for all seasons and La Plata would not be the Town it is today without his steadfast devotion to duty and the exercise of his remarkable talents. This award also demonstrates the level of respect and admiration he has throughout the State."

Councilman Wayne Winkler was thrilled when he heard of Bill's win of the award, "I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Mayor Eckman. Not only has he served La Plata for so many years but he is past president of Maryland Municipal League as well as other leadership roles to make Maryland a better place to live. Mayor Eckman, you should be proud of your accomplishments as a true leader. You served us well and we really appreciate it."

Mayor Eckman moved to La Plata in 1969 with his family from Pennsylvania and immediately began his role in public service. He was elected to the Town Council in 1969 and was continuously reelected until 1981. He

was then elected as Mayor in 1983 and held that position until May 2005 when he retired.

Mayor Eckman has held many positions on both the local and State level. Of greatest note he was the past president of the Maryland Municipal League (1995-96), Maryland Rural Water Association, Rural Maryland Council and Southern Maryland Municipal Association. He has lobbied to the Maryland General Assembly for the Maryland Municipal League on behalf of issues that directly affect municipalities (Smart Growth, Annexations, and Storm Water Management). Mayor Eckman has served on a number of Task Forces in Maryland which included the US 301 Task Force and 1997 State Task Force to study County Property Tax set-offs. He also served on a twenty-seven member commission, including ten members of the General Assembly, established by Governor Ehrlich in 2003 to study and recommend long-term transportation funding solutions critical to the future of Maryland. Mayor Eckman presented testimony on HR 2747, the Water Supply Infrastructure Assistance Act of 1995 on behalf of the National Rural Water Association. Mayor Eckman also authored and published a book in 1994 titled "The Fire Department Water Supply Handbook" that discusses various planning strategies, fire department water supply needs, shuttle operations and water sources. He was also a contributor to the 2006 Rural Maryland Council Annual Report.

Mayor Eckman was the driving force in the rebuilding of La Plata after the 2002 tornado. Several years prior to the tornado

Mayor Eckman had begun a "Vision Plan" in which he joined forces of local leaders, citizens, and business owners to develop a plan of what La Plata should look like in 5, 10, and 50 years. This task took many hours and meetings to come up with what is now known as the "La Plata Vision Plan". This plan was an outline as to how the Town should develop and grow. When the tornado hit, this plan had been accepted and adopted as a planning tool by the Mayor and Council. With this tool in hand State and Federal government felt very comfortable in giving money to the Town for the rebuilding efforts. Mayor Eckman has been requested to speak around the country regarding the recovery efforts of the Town. He prepared an hour long power point presentation that has been presented to Universities, other Towns and Cities and a variety of associations.

Mayor Eckman has been the recipient of many awards over his government career. Awards such as 2003 John Bloom Citizenship Award, Maryland Economic & Planning Commission Smart Growth Award, Municipal Officials Hall of Fame, Governors Citation, Maryland Economic and Planning Commission Community Activism & Achievement Award just to name a few.

Mayor Eckman has been a mentor to local elected officials. Through his leadership, loyalty and passion to help others, he has paved a way for future generations to succeed.

Employees and officials with the Town of La Plata feel Mayor Eckman would most want to be recognized and remembered for his compassion and desire to help others.

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.

LPPD Officers Now Have Remote Access to Records Management System and NCIC

In order to provide effective police response, the Town of La Plata Police Department has completed a project to allow remote access to its Records Management System (RMS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Since 2002 the Police Department has used CODY Systems as a fully inte-

grated records management system. In 2007 the department began using Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in their patrol vehicles to facilitate Computer Aided Dispatch and real time access to pertinent law enforcement information. Now officers can utilize their MDTs to access CODY Systems, which until recently could only be accessed in the Police Station.

A Federal Grant allowed the purchase of hardware and software that connects Police Officers MDT's to computers located inside the station via a secure encrypted connection. Officers can access a multitude of information remotely to provide timely response to the citizens of La Plata. In addition, officers can complete reports in the field that provides greater police presence, faster response time to calls, and more effective use of resources. Officers can also access information on the scene which was previously unavailable. This allows officers to better serve the public by providing the most timely and accurate information.

RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

	Introduced	Effective
Ordinance No. 10-3 Amended: Comprehensive Revision of Town Stormwater Management Regulations Repealing: Chapter 167 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT Code of the Town of La Plata (1998 Edition and Supplements) Adding: Chapter 167 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT Sections 167-1 through 167-14 Code of the Town of La Plata	3/16/2010	5/13/2010
Resolution 10-3: Acquisition of new Enterprise Resource Planning/Integrated Business Management System	3/23/2010	3/23/2010
Resolution 10-4: New Computer Hardware and Software to Support the Town's New Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Time & Attendance Systems	3/23/2010	3/23/2010
Resolution 10-5: Acquisition of new Time & Attendance Systems	3/23/2010	3/23/2010
Resolution 10-6: Financing the Acquisition of new Enterprise Resource Planning/Integrated Business Management, Time & Attendance Systems and Related Hardware, Software and Services	3/23/2010	3/23/2010
Resolution 10-7: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan	3/23/2010	3/23/2010
Resolution 10-8: Maryland Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network ("MDWARN") Agreement	4/27/2010	4/27/2010

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

Commercial Building Permits Issued 3/3-4/29

Richard Clark Senior Center (Addition)
1210 Charles Street

Panera Bread
3 Shining Willow Way

Wendy's
6293 Crain Highway

Use & Occupancy Permits Issued 3/3-4/29

American Legion (Remodel)
6330 Crain Highway

Game Stop
232 Rosewick Road

Allied Home Mortgage Capital Corp.
105 Centennial Street, Unit J

Pups N Stuff
404 Baltimore Street, Suite 4

World Gym of La Plata

6649 Crain Highway

McDonald's
109 Drury Drive

Verizon
9 Shining Willow Way

La Dolce Vita Salon
6509 Crain Highway

Meet the Town Staff

Glen Plater



Glen Plater was hired as La Plata's newest Police Officer in April. Mr. Plater was born in St. Mary's County and grew up in Hughesville attending Milton Somers Middle School in La Plata. He graduated from Thomas Stone High School and joined the US Marines. While in the military Mr. Plater began working on his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice at the College of Southern Maryland.

Mr. Plater began his career in law enforcement with twelve years in corrections and has been a Police Officer in Maryland for the past five years.

Glen is married with two children and they reside in Waldorf. His children are involved in sports and he coaches his seven year old daughter's baseball team. Glen spends his spare time hunting, fishing, and jogging.

Mr. Plater welcomes the opportunity to serve as a police officer for the Town of La Plata and looks forward to working hard enforcing laws in the community and to continue protecting citizens from law violators.

Mark Kaufman



Mark Kaufmann is the Town's newest part time Code Enforcement Officer. Mark is married and has a 3 year old son. His full time job takes him to the Naval District Washington Fire Department where he has been employed as a firefighter since 2000. Mark is also a member of La Plata's volunteer fire department. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, and hockey.

SERVICE PRIORITIES

Each year the Town Council works with the Town Staff to develop the Service Priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year. The Town Staff uses the priorities determined to develop recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Service Priorities focus on Police, Finance and Administrative Support, Community Development (Community Promotion, Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Protective Inspection, Development Assistance), Public Works, Water, Wastewater, and Storm Water, Town Management and Council Relations, and General Management. The Service Priorities include items such as infrastructure maintenance goals, staffing levels, new services, changes to how service is delivered, conservation objectives, and other items that may relate to the Town's budget.

If you would like to view the Service Priorities for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 they are available on the Town's website. Visit <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and follow the link on the left to "Service Priorities".

TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

La Plata Communicates with Social Media



With the accessibility to technology and communication devices expanding, the use of social media platforms like Twitter and YouTube has seen a tremendous surge in popularity. La Plata is using these outlets and La Plata residents began to enroll in a new online messaging program called Nixle this past spring. Messages the Town posts are immediately sent out as an email message, a text message to phones, a message to the Town's Twitter account, and are automatically posted to the Town's web page as an RSS feed.

Residents can choose how they want to receive information from the Town. Everyone receives the Town Notes Newsletter, hundreds of people have signed up to receive email directly from the Town, more are signing up anonymously through Nixle, and now residents can receive text messages or follow the Town's Twitter account online. Residents may also view messages on the Town's website, or on the Nixle website as well.

Nixle is a community information service provider built exclusively to provide secure and reliable communications. It is the first authenticated and secure service that connects municipal agencies and community organizations to residents in real time, delivering information to geographically targeted consumers over their cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails, Twitter, and via Web access. Nixle has secured a partnership with Nlets

(the International Justice and Public Safety Network), allowing local police departments nationwide to send immediate alerts and advisories. Nixle is free to all governments, their agencies and organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and consumers. Signing up is easy, you just enter your street name and zip code.

Add your email to our contact list by emailing cjohnson@townoflaplata.org

Sign up for text and email alerts through Nixle at <http://www.nixle.com>

Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/Townoflaplata>

Watch Town videos on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/LaPlataEvents>

Find out about the Town at <http://www.townoflaplata.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.