

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

One of the pleasures of youth is the opportunity to think about what you want to be when you grow up. The sky is the limit and realism only sets in as you grow older and the choices are narrowed down. But the process is rewarding as you work through the many possibilities that exist. The end result is usually a product of planning, determination, and available resources.

Building a community or a town is not unlike the experience addressed above. We must think about what it is we want our town to be in the near and distant future. While everything within reason is possible, we must narrow down this list to what can and should be done to build the community that the majority of residents want and are willing to support. We are fortunate in La Plata that a tremendous amount of work has already been done in this regard. A Vision Plan for La Plata was developed in 2000 and updated in 2005. A group of dedicated citizens are once again reviewing the plan to ensure that it still represents the vision for our Town. The Vision Plan was not developed by a small group of people in a backroom, to be forced upon a community. To the contrary, it was originally developed by over 70 citizens and this plan played an instrumental role in our ability to build back so quickly following the tornado that struck La Plata in 2002.

The core of the Vision Plan is fairly straight forward: build a pedestrian friendly, walking downtown; develop a Town Center, anchored on one end by

Continued on page 2

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget

In the beginning of 2009 the La Plata Town Council met to discuss its service priorities for the coming fiscal year. Additionally, the Citizens of La Plata participated in the Town's Citizen Survey to comment on Town Services and Community Perceptions. The FY2009-2010 Financial Plan/Budget has been structured to emphasize the service priorities of the Town, and to provide resources for the staff to address those areas. The Town's budget covers its General Fund and self supporting enterprise funds including Sanitation, Water and Sewer, and Storm Water.

General Fund Revenue is anticipated to decrease in the 2010 fiscal year; however the Town will maintain all of the services provided to the community. Due to the strong and appropriate priorities of the Town Council the FY2009-2010 Financial Plan/Budget adopted General Fund Expenditures of \$6,184,751 including Capital Expenditures of \$686,000, Sanitation Expenditures of \$1,153,581, Water Expenditures of \$1,241,411 including Capital Expenditures of \$250,000, Sewer Expenditures of \$6,351,170 including Capital Expenditures of \$3,477,000, and Storm Water Expenditures of \$80,000.

The significant Capital expenditures represent the Town's commitment to maintaining its vital infrastructure and improving the reliability of its most important services. La Plata will make one increase to its staffing in the coming year, turning the part time Special Events Coordinator position into a full time position. In addition, the Town is expanding its contracts for landscape services to include Tilghman Lake Park. Special events expenditures have increased to \$92,000 in order to provide more community activities at low or no cost to residents. Streets have \$185,000 allocated, and there is \$50,000 included for business integration software to move the Town toward being able to accept online payments. The Town Council has also budgeted \$256,000 towards Parks Capital expenditures to further improve existing parks. The Town will undertake Park Comprehensive Planning in the upcoming fiscal year, and the Street Striping Program will continue with an additional \$27,000. The Town will also replace four Police vehicles for \$100,000. Green and conservation related expenditures are strong in the Town's budget with over \$30,000 allocated.

The expenditures budgeted in the General Fund are fiscally reasonable in order to maintain services and do not require an increase to the Town's property tax rate. The tax rate remains at \$0.32 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.

For a complete FY2009-2010 Budget please visit our website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and follow the links on the left to Town Budget.

LA PLATA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



FY 2010 LPBA Board of Directors

The following persons are the Board of Directors for FY 2010: President – Cecil “Butch” Hunt, Hunt Ford; Vice President - Jon Johnson, County Drug Store; Secretary/Treasurer – Michelle Miner, Town of La Plata; Directors at Large- Jim DiMisa, Community Bank; Sharon Richards, La Plata Best Western; Tom Mudd, of Mudd, Mudd & Fitzgerald; Debbie Almassy, Bernie’s Frame Shop; Council Ex Officio – Wayne Winkler



Boutique Hours: Tue.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
301-392-5901

www.accessorizeyourhouse.com

Visit “house”, a fun, new and exciting home boutique located next to the Greene Turtle Restaurant in the heart of La Plata! From jewelry and handbags to unique gifts for birthdays and weddings “house”, is filled with an



array of simple little treasures to fulfill your every need. Designing window treatments, selecting that perfect color scheme or having that favorite piece reupholstered, “house” can assist you. Find everything for your home and a little something for you at “house”, where care and friendly service are at the top of our list!

Temporary Moratorium on Enforcement of Certain Sign and Fee Regulations

On June 23, 2009 the Town Council adopted an emergency ordinance to suspend enforcement of certain provisions of Town Code as they pertain to

“banners” and off-site sandwich board signs in the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts.

A “banner” is a temporary sign that has an area of not more than 32 square feet. During the moratorium, the display of banner signs will be allowed in the same location for a period of up to August 29, 2009 (60 days from when the ordinance was adopted); and the display of banner signs and sandwich board signs posted off-site must have the permission of the owner of the property on which the sign will be located. Please be aware that Rt. 301 and Charles Street are State highways/rights-of-way, where no signs may be posted. There is no permit fee during the moratorium, but a permit is still required to be completed and submitted to the Town Hall. Permits may be picked up at the Town Hall or accessed on the Town’s website <http://www.townoflaplata.org>. For the full language of the ordinance please visit the Town’s website, Legislation, Ordinance 09-8. Should you have any questions please contact Tommy Daniels, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town.

MAYOR’S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the La Plata Town Hall and on the other by a community complex such as a civic center and library; retain La Plata’s small town spirit and atmosphere throughout the entire process. Many things have to happen for all of this to occur, but the important point to

make, at this time, is that the process has started. The new buildings, streetscapes, and businesses that are a part of our Town, which did not exist just seven short years ago, makes me believe that we are on the right track. Our Vision Plan is a real plan which will continue to evolve over time and will continue to be our beacon for the future. It will also help us focus on the critical

issues such as traffic management, safety (pedestrian, vehicular and community), preservation of natural resources and integration of new development. We are and will continue to be a community that others will want to emulate.

I firmly believe that the many Town events that we hold throughout the year demonstrate our commitment to retaining our small town spirit and atmosphere. The Friday night concerts at the Town Hall, our movie program, our special events on Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day, and during the Christmas Holidays, to name a few, are enjoyed by all who attend these functions. And the numbers who attend are growing. We will retain these core events and will add other events from time to time.

Bottom line: a lot is happening in La Plata, and we will do our best to keep you informed.

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).

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: mmminer@townoflaplata.org

Website: www.townoflaplata.org

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Wayne Winkler, Ward 1

Well, it's good to be back on the Town Council and working for you again. During my time off, Jim Goldsmith did a wonderful job and, had he won the election, Ward 1 would still have a decent and dedicated Councilperson. Jim, thanks.

Today a news reporter called me and wanted to know why I thought La Plata was still growing when other towns weren't. Looking back to when we experienced the tornado, I think that was a turning point for the Town. We were really hit hard in our downtown business district as well as some of our neighborhoods. We all started working together to rebuild. Some of us met our neighbors for the first time. Paul Facchina deserves a lot of credit for giving so many businesses a place to stay during the rebuild, and they stayed. We also had a lot of help from other Towns, the County and the State. But the best part was our attitude. We never even considered giving up. We had a Vision Plan and we put it in place, just in a different location. It was all about helping our friends and neighbors and that's what we did.

We still have our old neighbors and we have some new ones. We have our old businesses and we have new ones. We have pulled out the Vision Plan and are revising it. We have retooled our sewer system and it is working a lot better. It's not finished yet but we are making great headway. We replaced a lot of trees that were damaged or destroyed. And we replaced them with the right type of trees. We built a better Town Hall that we can grow in. The hospital put on a wonderful addition so they provide more services to us. We expanded our Police Department to

better serve the community. And, to me, that's why people want to live here, and that's why I choose to live here. We are a great community with a small town feel.

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward 3

What a great July 4th celebration! Thanks to all our staff who helped make it such a success and to Mother Nature for her cooperation. I look forward to our Friday concerts, Saturday movies, farmers' market and our First Friday celebrations for the rest of the summer and into the fall. This is what small town USA is all about. Your Council is planning controlled growth in the hope of maintaining this atmosphere for many years to come.

By the time you read this our 2009 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Rezoning Map will have had their public hearings. A vote on the Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Rezoning Map is anticipated in September. Please keep in mind as you look at your favorite project that we cannot please everyone and strive to do what we think is best for all our citizens and for the future. This Plan is an extremely complicated and tedious job for our staff and Planning Commission but the final approval rests with the Council.

The Beautification Commission hopes that you will enjoy the benches, new trash cans and resurfaced asphalt walks on the Town Hall property. My grandson, John, is not too happy that we have eliminated the low spots and wonderful splashing puddles! We have more plans for the fall and spring after the drainage pond at the rear of the property is redone. Please send any suggestions you may have to us.

Councilman Joseph W. Norris, Ward 4

We recently joined many of our fellow municipal officials for the Maryland Municipal League 2009 Convention. It was a great opportunity to learn from our peers how they are dealing with problems similar to ours. I especially enjoyed the education sessions for the Fellowship Program of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance. As a newly elected Council member, these are especially helpful. I am looking at some of the same subjects that I have encountered before from a new perspective.

As Council representative to the Design Review Board, I plan to keep you informed of any interesting items that come before us. Because of the economy, the agenda has been very light since I have been a member. In time, this will change.

Please remember to enjoy our Friday Night Concert Series and Screen on the Green. The schedule is on the Town website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org>.

If you have any issues or concerns I may be reached by phone at 301-934-9230 or by email at jnorris@townoflaplata.org.

Have a great summer.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following day:

Monday, September 7

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.

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. Minimum fee: \$12.50 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.*

La Plata Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market offers for sale fresh produce, flowers and handcrafted items. It is located in the north parking lot behind the Charles County Courthouse on Washington Avenue. The Market is open on Wednesdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Farmers interested in selling at the market can contact the Town Hall for an application (301) 934-8421.

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

If your regular trash collection day is:
Monday, September 7

Trash will be picked up on:
Tuesday, September 8

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Charles County Sanitary Landfill accepts household hazardous waste products **the first Saturday of each month during April through December, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5.**

The landfill is located at 12305 Billingsley Road East, Waldorf. For driving directions from your location, visit their web page at <http://www.charlescounty.org/pf/sw/landfill/default.htm>. Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, fluorescent lights, expired prescription medicines and other poisons that are around your house. They advise that you should keep the materials in their original labeled containers whenever possible, and bring the items to the collection site in cardboard boxes for ease in unloading. *If you need more information, please call the Charles County Dept. of Public Facilities at 301-932-3599 or 301-870-2778, or the Landfill information service at 301-932-5656.*

Email addresses wanted

The Town is compiling a database of resident email addresses in order to

expand its use of email communication within the Town. Residents who send their email address to the Town will be able to receive information easily, quickly, and cost-effectively. Providing your email address to the Town is completely voluntary. The Town is simply seeking an additional means to be able to communicate with residents.

If you would like to have your email address included in our database for future communication, please send your email address to Carolyn at cjohnson@townoflaplata.org along with your name and street address.

Yard Waste Pickup on Mondays and Fridays

Effective April 1, 2009, a change was made to when residential yard waste pickups will occur. Yard waste pickups will only take place on Mondays and Fridays. If a holiday falls on one of those pickup days, there will be no yard waste pickup on that day.

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 50 lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 inches in diameter or more than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed - if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL...

Hundreds of residents gathered on the grounds of the Town Hall for the *"Fourth of July Celebration and Watermelon Bash"*. They enjoyed wonderful music provided by the College of Southern Maryland's "Solid Brass" band, free ice cream from the La Plata Business Association, free hot dogs and bottled water, and of course... lots of WATERMELON! Kids (and adults!) of all ages were entertained with moon bounces, face painting, and watermelon games. You won't want to miss it next year!

Mayor Roy Hale officiates one of the several Watermelon Eating Contests held July 4th.



AUGUST 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
2 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 7/31 to schedule.) Yard waste pickup day	3	4 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., National Night Out	5 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting [rescheduled from 8/4] 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	6	7 5:30 p.m., First Friday – 8 <i>Obms</i> Yard waste pickup day	8 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
9 Yard waste pickup day	10	11 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	12 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	13	14 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Southern MD Concert Band</i> Yard waste pickup day	15 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 8:30 p.m. – SCREEN ON THE GREEN – <i>Wall-E</i> (Rain Date: August 22)
16 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting Yard waste pickup day	17	18 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	19 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting	20	21 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Swamp Dogs</i> Yard waste pickup day	22 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
23/30 Yard waste pickup day	24/31	25 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	26 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	27	28 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>U.S. Navy Band "Cruisers"</i> Yard waste pickup day	29 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	2 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	3	4 5:30 p.m., First Friday – <i>25th Hour Band</i> Yard waste pickup day	5 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
6 Town Hall Closed (Mon. trash will be picked up on Tues., 9/8.) NO YARD WASTE PICKUP	7	8 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	9 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	10	11 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Nuttin' Fancy</i> Yard waste pickup day	12 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
13 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 7/31 to schedule.) Yard waste pickup day	14	15 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	16 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board meeting	17	18 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Sweetwater Band</i> Yard waste pickup day	19 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., La Plata Chili Cook-Off
20 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting Yard waste pickup day	21	22 7:00 p.m., Town Council reg meeting	23 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	24	25 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Sound Storm</i> Yard waste pickup day	26 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
27 Yard waste pickup day	28	29	30 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market			

Conservation Corner – Conservation Mini-Grants



Since December of 2007, La Plata’s Conservation Corner has been giving you ideas and information to help conserve resources, save money, and make La Plata a better place for you and the environment. In order to help turn some of those ideas on helping our environment into reality, the La Plata Town Council approved funds to provide Conservation Mini-Grants. Over the next year the

Town will award several grants of up to \$500 for projects that positively benefit La Plata environmentally.

Find a way to inspire action, educate the community, or directly benefit our environment. This is a great outlet for Home Owner Associations, school projects, scout groups, civic organizations, individuals, businesses, and other community members to do something that benefits you, the Town, and the environment. Grant applications will be available for download from the Town’s website, or you may get them directly from Town Manager Daniel Mears at 301-934-8421 or dmears@townoflaplata.org. Grant applications will be reviewed by La Plata’s Green Building Committee and successful projects will receive up to \$500 to help implement the idea. The Town appreciates your interest in helping to make La Plata a better place and wants to help you make that happen.

How to Calculate Your Average Daily Water Consumption

You can use the information on your La Plata utility bill to calculate your average daily water usage. The process is as follows:

1. Take the number in the USAGE column, which is the amount of water that passed through the meter during the last billing period, measured in hundreds of gallons, and multiply it by 100.
2. This gives you the usage for the billing period in gallons.
3. Next take the result of the previous calculation and divide it by the value in the NO.DAYS column on the bill (in most cases this number will be somewhere between 80 and 95).

4. This will give you your average daily usage.

Example: Assuming the value in the USAGE column on your bill is 151 and the value in the NO. DAYS column is 90 then the calculations would be as follows:

1. $151 \text{ (USAGE value from bill)} \times 100 = 15,100$ (Usage for billing period in gallons)
2. $15,100 \text{ (Usage for billing period in gallons from Step 1)} \div 90 \text{ (NO.DAYS value from bill)} = 167.78$ (Average daily usage in gallons).

If you have questions or need help calculating your average daily usage, please don’t hesitate to contact Carolyn Johnson at 301-934-8421 or cjohnson@townoflaplata.org.

Testing and Painting of Fire Hydrants

The Public Works Department is in the process of testing and painting all fire hydrants within the Town limits. The Town’s standard fire hydrant color is yellow. The top bonnet color is based on the hydrant’s gallons per minute (GPM) water flow rate, which is determined by testing results and is in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association Color Code System, which is also used by the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this testing and painting process, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 301-934-8421, or via email at jgarner@townoflaplata.org.

Fire Hydrant Color Codes

GPM water flow capacity	Color	Class
1500 or greater	Light Blue	AA
1000 to 1499	Green	A
500 to 999	Orange	B
Less than 500	Red	C

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 4, 2009

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 barbeques, 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, 301-934-1500.

WEBSITE POLL

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

Sanitary Sewer Overflows are a public health hazard and the Town of La Plata should continue to make the elimination of the causes of these overflows a top municipal priority.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Disagree
Somewhat Agree	Strongly Disagree
Neither Agree nor Disagree	Don't Know

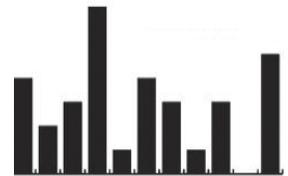
Somewhat Agree – 32%

Neither Agree nor Disagree – 20%

Somewhat Disagree – 0%

Strongly Disagree – 20%

Don't Know – 12%



Since March of 2000, when the Town adopted its Vision Plan For Greater La Plata, the Town has undergone many changes, some planned and others unexpected. A broad concept for the future of La Plata is included in the Town's Vision documents, and serves as the backdrop for the Town's planning activities. As a vision developed by the people of this community, it is a collective thought, and one which is always open for discussion.

Take time to read the Vision documents on the Town website. If you have any comments, ideas, concerns, or a personal vision for the community to share, please do. Let the Town Council know your vision, or tell a member of the Town staff. What makes La Plata such a great place is the people of the community, and the place should serve the interests of its people.

Website Poll results from last issue of *Town Notes*

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

The 2000 Vision Plan for Greater La Plata is an accurate vision of what I would like to see in La Plata.

Strongly Agree – 16%

AUGUST IS NEIGHBORHOOD SPEED AWARENESS MONTH

The Council of the Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department have declared August as *Neighborhood Speed Awareness Month*. The goal of this program is to promote public awareness of the issue of speeding in our neighborhoods and endangering the

lives of our children and all pedestrians in our community. Children will soon be walking to and waiting at school bus stops, and many will also be walking to their schools. It is a shared responsibility to take every action possible to protect the children and all pedestrians in our

community. The La Plata Police Department will be promoting public awareness of the issue and educating drivers who exceed the posted speed limits in our neighborhoods and community about the danger their speeding poses to children and all pedestrians.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Parents must be responsible for their children. Please do not bring pets or alcoholic beverages to the concerts and be considerate to all guests.

Summer Concert Series

Enjoy great music while relaxing on the lawn at Town Hall every Friday night through October 2, 2009! All concerts are free and open to the public. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. (See calendars for concerts in August and September; visit the Town's website for a complete listing of concerts: <http://www.townoflaplata.org>.) Please bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Refreshments are available for purchase. An after-hours recorded message will advise of concert cancellations due to threatening weather: call (301) 934-8421.

SCREEN ON THE GREEN 8:30 p.m., La Plata Town Hall

Come out and watch movies on the lawn of the Town Hall under the stars. Refreshments are available for purchase. The final movie of the 2009 season will be showing on Saturday, August 15 and

it is Wall-E, rated G. The rain date is Saturday, August 22, 2009. So, pack up the kids, some blankets and lawn chairs and join us for the final movie of the season!

Tornado Siren Message

Twice a year, the Town of La Plata and the Charles County Emergency Operations Center test the tornado sirens located throughout Town. When there is a threat of a tornado the Charles County Emergency Operations Center sounds the Town's tornado siren. The

siren is followed by a pre-recorded message to advise people in the community what to do in the event of a tornado warning. The pre-recorded message states "Attention!

A tornado warning has been issued. Seek shelter now. Do not delay. Seek shelter now. Attention! A tornado warning has been issued. Seek shelter now. Do not delay. Seek shelter now." This message is used during all threats of a tornado.

When you hear the siren going off, please do not delay in seeking shelter. Get indoors, get to an interior small room or basement, and get low. It can be loud during a storm. You do not need to wait by a window or door to listen to the pre-recorded message. For some tornado tips, please visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's site at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>.



TOWN CODE CORNER

Accessory uses and structures

This is a highlight of Town Code Section 191-28 *Accessory uses and structures*. For more detailed information please view this section of the Code at <http://www.townoflaplata.org>. Detached accessory buildings [sheds] shall not occupy any portion of the required front or side yard or be located within five (5) feet of any other accessory building, principal building or lot line. Detached acces-

sory buildings less than one hundred twenty (120) square feet in area and used for storage may be located within two (2) feet of a lot line.

Accessory structures: Notwithstanding residential driveways and parking lots, no accessory structure shall be located within five (5) feet of any accessory building, principal building or lot line. All freestanding radio towers, including satellite dishes, shall be located behind the

principal use.

On any corner residential lot, nothing shall be erected, planted or allowed to grow that will obscure visibility over the height of two and one-half (2 ½) feet above the street grade between the lines of the intersecting streets and a straight line connecting them at points twenty-five (25) feet distant from the intersection of said street lines.

SPECIAL EVENTS



First Fridays

**Friday, August 7,
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Friday, September 4, 5:30 p.m. to
9:00 p.m.**

La Plata Town Hall

The First Friday of August, September, and October, the La Plata Town Hall will feature local businesses, food vendors, kids' attractions, and a concert. This "mini-festival" kicks-off at 5:30 p.m. and the band begins at 6:00 p.m. and plays until 9:00 p.m. Local businesses will be on site providing information and coupons for their services. Enjoy great food from local food vendors while the kids spend

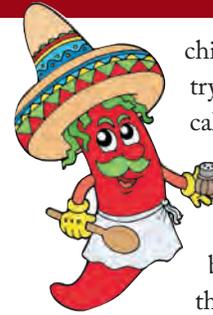
time on the fun moon bounces and slides. As with every Friday evening during the summer, enjoy an entertaining concert on the lawn—for an hour longer! Bring the kids, a lawn chair or blanket, and come out for an evening of fun, information, relaxation, and support your local community. Some of the businesses who will be participating in the August and September First Friday's are Chick-fil-A, J. Cooper, Moore's Driving Academy, Sacred Heart Church, JoAnne's Pet Sitting Service, and Full Circle Reflexology & Whispering Winds Wellness. La Plata businesses interested in participating should contact Special Events Coordinator Amy Peña right away to find out how they can participate.

La Plata Chili Cook-Off

**Saturday, September 19, 12:00 noon
to 4:00 p.m.**

La Plata Town Hall

Join us for our inaugural La Plata Chili Cook-Off at the La Plata Town Hall. The kids will enjoy moon bounces and there will be plenty of free



chili samples for you to try. There will also be local food vendors selling their popular menu items. Also, the band 8 Obms will be playing great music throughout the event.

Think you make the best chili out there? Do your friends and family always tell you how great your chili tastes? Then enter it in the Cook Off! We will have chef judges from some of the best local restaurants judging in three categories: Best Vegetarian Chili, Best All-Meat Chili, and Best Meat and Bean Chili. We will also have a People's Choice Award where the crowd picks their favorite. If you would like to enter, please go to <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and follow the link on the left to "Events", then click on "Chili Cook-Off Entry Form" and download an application.

For information on any of the above events, please contact Amy Peña at 301-934-8421, ext. 142 or via email at apena@townoflaplata.org.

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

[This information is current as of June 26, 2009.]

The following businesses were issued Building Permits and/or Commercial Occupancy Permits during the period of March through June 2009:

Commercial Building Permits

Chick-fil-A, 107 Drury Drive

Dollar Tree, 6607 Crain Highway

Zekiah Technologies, 103 Centennial Street

Benny's Restaurant, 6505 Crain Highway

PNC Bank, 200 Rosewick Road

Taco Bell, 5995 Crain Highway

Sleepy's, 106 Rosewick Road

ANS Daycare, 104 Port Tobacco Road

Occupancy Permits

The R.R. Gregory Corporation, 9375 Chesapeake St., Ste. #111

Magnum Fields, 107 Centennial Street

Dollar Tree, 6607 Crain Highway

Zekiah Technologies, 103 Centennial Street

PNC Bank, 200 Rosewick Road

Island Music, 602 Charles Street

Marie's Diner, 6325 Crain Highway

Home Accessories Boutique, 6 St. Mary's Ave., Ste. A

Pope John Paul II Academy, 401 Carroll Street

Sleepy's, 106 Rosewick Road

MEET THE TOWN STAFF



Danielle Mandley

Due to the retirement of our current Town Clerk, Judy Frazier the Town conducted a search for a new Town Clerk. We are pleased to announce the selection of Danielle Mandley from the Town's current staff. Danielle has

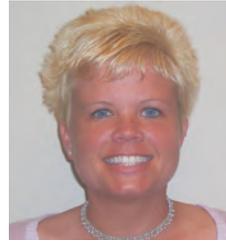
worked for the Town since 2004 in the Finance Department. She has served as staff liaison to the Beautification Commission, and assisted in many different projects for the Town. Danielle has begun transitioning into the new role and will solely fill the Town Clerk role as of August 1. We are looking forward to continuing to work with Danielle in her new capacity, and we value the knowledge and work ethic she provides to the Town.



Matthew Norris

Matthew joined the La Plata Police Department in June. Matthew is a 2000 graduate of Chopticon High School where he played football and baseball. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Sci-

ence Degree in Psychology from Towson University. Matthew will be entering the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy in August. He is looking forward to a long career in Law Enforcement.



Amy Peña

Amy came to work for the Town in August of 2008 in the newly created position of part-time Special Events Coordinator. In the short time that Amy has been with the Town she has introduced several new events such as

the Community Yard Sales, First Fridays (part of the concert series), and Watermelon Bash as part of the July 4th celebration. As part of the Town Council's annual priority setting for the upcoming budget year the Council determined the need to continue to increase and enhance the Town's events and budget, thus Amy's position was changed to full-time as of July 1, 2009. As well as coordinating all the special events for the Town, she will inherit the coordination of the "Town Notes" newsletter currently handled by Judy Frazier. In addition to the Town's tried and true events, look for new and exciting activities in the future. The Town's website at <http://www.townofla-plata.org> is a great source of information for all events through the end of the year – check it out.

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

TOWN OF LA PLATA

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