

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

THE STATE OF THE TOWN

[Delivered by Mayor Gene Ambrogio at the May 27, 2008 business meeting.]

What a difference a year makes. Approximately one year ago our new Town Manager, Daniel Mears, began his employment with the Town. Although many programs and initiatives were identified as needing attention before his arrival, they all needed direction. One important program was to survey the Town employees and also survey La Plata residents to determine their priorities and concerns. The Council was pleased with the input from all participants and will tailor some initiatives to the survey responses. We plan to continue the survey process in order to monitor our progress.

According to the survey the residents felt that it was important for the Town to project itself in a positive light environmentally. As a result, the Council adopted a resolution requiring that all new construction and major renovations of Town-owned or -funded buildings meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certification. LEED certified buildings are nationally recognized as being environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work. The Town Hall building received a LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for its construction and operation. This was a great accomplishment for La Plata.

Many residents expressed concern about water conservation and to support this effort the Town will institute tiered water billing. Residents will be encouraged to reduce water consumption by being rewarded with lower billing rates. The Town will also take the lead by installing native landscaping and use rainwater and other non-potable water sources for irrigation around Town Hall.

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Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget

In January and February 2008 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 first Citizen Survey to comment on Town Services and Community Perceptions. The FY2008-2009 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.

Due to the strong and appropriate priorities of the Town Council the FY2008-2009 Financial Plan/Budget recommends expenditures in excess of revenue. The budget calls for significant Capital expenditures in the upcoming year, which will draw down some of the fund balances the Town has been building over the years. Total General Fund Revenue is budgeted at \$5,409,200. General Fund Expenditures are budgeted at \$6,674,649 with a significant amount in new Capital Expenditures, including anticipated costs for land acquisition and facility development for new Public Works Facility. This is a planned project, and within the resources of the Town to deliver, and \$1 million is budgeted to begin this major project. Including funds from existing *Parks and Recreation Facilities* fund balance, \$125,000 is budgeted for park capital. With funds from existing *Transportation Improvements* fund balance, \$27,000 is budgeted for a street striping program. La Plata has approximately \$5,605,244 in existing fund balance, to cover the \$1,593,100 in total General Fund Capital costs.

La Plata will make some additions to its staff in the coming year. The Town Council budgeted to add one Police Officer, two Public Works staff, a part time position for community events coordination, and a part time expansion of code enforcement. In addition, the Town is contracting for landscape services at some of its parks and facilities.

The resources requested in the General Fund budget are fiscally reasonable and do not require an increase to the Town's property tax rate. The tax rate will remain at \$0.32 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.

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 and Wastewater, 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.

For a complete FY2008-2009 Budget and list of the Town Council's Service Priorities please visit our website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> and follow the links on the left to FY 09 Budget and Service Priorities.

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

As the Town grows so does the staff needed to operate the many functions within the organization. The Town is committed to having adequate staffing to deliver the quality services our residents require. The La Plata Police Department will employ three new officers who have received extensive training at the Police Academy. One additional officer is projected to be added to the staff next year as well. There will be two new staff positions in Public Works and an additional part time position for Code enforcement within the next fiscal year. The Town Manager has already hired a Director of Operations to oversee the Town's infrastructure projects.

Two projects concerning water storage facilities were located in different quadrants of the Town: a new ground level water storage tank near Tilghman Lake and a new elevated water tower near Rosewick Road. A new well to assist with our water supply will eventually be constructed at the latter site. Two of our largest wells were upgraded with more reliable submersible pumps and new sanitary sewer lines were installed to convey sewage efficiently to the treatment plant.

Much needed rehabilitation to our sewer lines to reduce inflow and infiltration of

rain water into the Town's sewer system was completed. In addition, several roads were resurfaced in downtown and in several neighborhoods, with more planned for next year. The Town will routinely test the early warning device/siren twice per year to ensure that this warning system is functional in the event that it is needed to alert the public of an impending tornado.

The Council continues its dialogue and good working relationship with the County on issues that affect both governments. The Council met on a quarterly basis with the Commissioners to discuss a variety of issues. Of note were: the joint partnership with the County regarding the MTA lot on Washington Avenue, water conservation strategies, and the working relationship of the La Plata Police Department and the Charles County Sheriff's office. The Planning offices of the County and Town will continue to join forces to enact the State of Maryland's House Bill 1141's requirements.

The Town is working to maintain its financial health. In order to do so, the Council recommends the preparation of a five year financial plan for both capital and general expenses. The Council is committed to maintaining realistic property taxes; therefore, the Town's property tax

rate will remain at 32 cents per \$100 of assessed real value. The Town has commenced a Park Capital Plan and recognized the need for the Public Works Department to expand its operation and ultimately move from its current location to a larger site. A Public Works needs assessment was completed and the Council is working toward implementing its recommendations.

The Town introduced a new community event, Taste of La Plata, during our Fall Festival. The new portion of the event was very well received and attended. The Council has appropriated increased funds to promote more community events and hire a part-time events coordinator in the next fiscal year. The Town will also be participating in "First Night," a family event which will hopefully encourage enthusiasm and community participation for the New Year celebration.

As this Council enters the final year of their elected terms, the La Plata Town Council will continue to work for the good of the Town and we are all grateful for the support of our citizens.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following day:

Independence Day Friday, July 4, 2008

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: Gene Ambrogio

Council:

Jim Goldsmith Ward 1

Scot D. Lucas Ward 2

Paddy Mudd Ward 3

Vic E. Newman Ward 4

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Director of Planning and Zoning:

Catherine N. Flerlage

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Stephen A. Murphy

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Town Manager:

Daniel J. Mears

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Judith T. Frazier

Treasurer: Joseph W. Norris

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

Email addresses wanted



As reported in the last issue of the *Town Notes*, we are collecting resident email addresses.

That database is

growing. Residents who send their email address to the Town will be able to receive information easily, quickly, and cost-effectively.

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. 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.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Jim Goldsmith Ward 1

Building "green." The Town is taking a leadership position as we look at new construction within the Town. Our Town Hall was built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards and is the first building to be LEED certified in Charles County. We are discussing an ordinance to make all future construction and renovation of Town buildings to meet LEED standards. The next question is do we mandate or encourage LEED standards for other construction within the Town. I think as a minimum we will be providing the questionnaire to builders and asking them to at least complete the questionnaire. This will raise their awareness of energy conservation issues.

The decision that the Town will have substantial growth has been made by our predecessors. Now we have to do our best to ensure that we have smart growth and do our best to have the least impact on our dwindling natural resources. Again, the Town is stepping forward in a leadership role by installing a rainwater collection system for the Town Hall landscaping. The system will not use any potable water for watering our lawn and shrubbery. When there is insufficient rainwater we will use other non-potable water sources to fill our underground cisterns.

I have been taking a class offered by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to look at conservation issues and their impact on the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and the total watershed, and their impact on the food supply within those waters: crabs, oysters, and fish. You have probably read in the paper about our dwindling water supply from the existing aquifers. We need to start conserving now to ensure our children and grandchildren have sufficient water resources for their needs. I will be installing a barrel rainwater collection system for my home to be used for watering my yard and shrubs. It will consist of five 55-gallon barrels connected to my sump pump and downspouts. Not only will it save on the water usage, but it will also show up in a reduced water bill. I should have the system in place by June. If you are interested in seeing how it works, contact me. If you have any questions, contact me via email at jgoldsmith@townofplata.org.

We all have to do our part to make it better or at least not make it worse for those who

follow us. The Town is trying to do its part. How about you?

Councilman Scot D. Lucas Ward 2

The folks at Town Hall worked diligently for months putting together a comprehensive budget for FY 2008/2009. The total General Fund annual budget is \$6,674,649. The budget reflects an increase in resident services and includes expenditures for capital improvements – all without raising the town taxes. Examples of additional services include accepting payments with a credit or debit card and hiring an additional police officer and a community events coordinator, to name just a few. The budget also includes spending \$1 million for a new Public Works facility. With our Town expanding we've outgrown our current facility. The funds for the purchase come from La Plata's reserves into which the residents have been contributing over the years. We currently have about \$6 million in our reserves.

Just a quick note about our reserves: some folks would like to see the Town continue to accumulate funds without spending them. As you know, the purpose of the reserve is to set aside funds each year so we will have the money available when capital repairs and improvements are needed. While it would be nice to have a large reserve account, delays in capital improvement projects usually result in higher cost. That's not to say let's spend it all. I want to ensure all expenditures are made to get the residents what is needed, but in a prudent way that ensures La Plata gets the best value for its taxpayer dollars.

Finally, with summer approaching, please remember safety. Summer is a time for fun and relaxation – but it's also a time where accidents are more likely. With schools closed, more children will be in the neighborhoods. Whether you are in a swimming pool, at a sporting event, or taking a leisurely drive – please remember to put safety first. Obey all traffic laws from not speeding to stopping completely at all stop signs.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd Ward 3

My summertime message is short – I hope all of you enjoy our beautiful town by tak-

ing part in all of our activities. Memorial Day, the 4th of July and our Friday night concerts are all free and great family activities. Come out and meet your neighbors, the Town Council and Staff, while enjoying our town.

As I write this, work has begun on our cistern and landscaping project for our GREEN Town Hall. Join with us in our water and other natural resources conservation efforts. We are beginning to plan our La Plata Community Center – a GREEN project to be built on the present Public Works site. The Kent Corridor Partnership meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the La Plata Police Station. Come out and join us and present your ideas for this project.

Have a wonderful summer!

Councilman Vic Newman Ward 4

Support All Local Businesses

As La Plata continues to grow the Town needed additional retail to sustain not only the growth of La Plata but the massive amount of housing that the County will be linking up to the Town on the north side of La Plata (St. Charles Parkway). I was a staunch supporter of the new "Rosewick Crossing" that will help balance the much needed retail; this balance gives La Plata a venue for any additional retail needs and compliments our central retail district.

With these great additions – Target, Wal-Mart, Safeway, Giant, and Lowe's to name just a few – we should make every effort to continue to support our long established retail that has been here for us all along, such as La Plata Farm Supply, True Value/ACE Hardware, Motrol Electrical/Mechanical, La Plata Mill, Martin's, La Grange Avenue and St. Mary's Avenue shopping/dining, Atlantic Office Supplies, and Judy's Hallmark, to name just a few.

The Council and I would love to hear what you would like to see come to La Plata; we then can convey this to the appropriate property owners.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

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.: June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 6.**

The landfill is located at 12305 Billingsley Road East, Waldorf. For driving directions from your location, visit the Landfill's 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, expired prescription medicines and other poisons that are around your house. They advise that you should keep the materials in their original 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.*

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: \$11.00 for 5 minutes loading time; each additional minute is \$1.00. 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.* **NOTE: Effective July 1, 2008, the fee for this service will increase to \$11.75 for 5 minutes loading time, and \$1.10 for each additional minute.**

Yard Waste Pickup

Containers of yard waste ONLY - leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches - may be put out on your regular trash day for pickup that day **or the next day**. 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.*



Friendly Reminder: Please put heavier weight recyclables on top of lighter weight items in your recycling bins so the contents aren't blown out and scattered in your neighborhood.

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

Due to Charles County Sanitary Landfill being closed on certain holidays, the following adjustment is necessary to the Town's refuse collection schedule:

If your regular trash collection day is:

Independence Day
Friday, July 4

Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, July 3

CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

In January 1,200 households in the Town of La Plata were asked to participate in The National Citizen Survey™. The National Research Center, Inc. has collected citizen surveys in over 500 jurisdictions in the United States with thousands of survey questions dealing with resident perception about the quality of community life, community characteristics, perceptions of safety, community participation, public trust, services and impressions of Town Employees. Comparisons are made to municipalities across the nation. La Plata had a very high response rate of 39%.

Knowledge, responsiveness, courtesy and overall impression of Town employees was rated and 58% of the citizens surveyed had been in contact with a Town of La Plata employee in the past year. Compared to similar jurisdictions across the nation the overall impression of La Plata employees was at the 76th percentile and for courtesy the 84th percentile.

When asked about the Quality of Life, actual ratings for evaluating La Plata as a place to live,

86% rated from "good" to "excellent". When evaluating safety in the community 74% of the respondents felt "somewhat" to "very safe" from violent crimes in La Plata.

Garbage collection in the Town was in the 82nd percentile, ranking it above the norm compared to similar jurisdictions across the nation.

The Town has also identified areas in need of improvement. Water and Sewer issues are both services received ratings below national comparisons. Town officials have already begun addressing both of these issues and are working toward improvements in both of these areas.

In addition to the survey questions, Town officials developed policy questions to be asked. The first question was: to what degree should customers that use above the average amount of water be charged a higher rate? Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents strongly to somewhat agree. The second question asked: to what degree you would support the Town encouraging residents to conserve water and

reducing water and sewer fees for those who do? A whopping 87% of respondents somewhat to strongly agree. In direct result to this response, a small reduction to water and sewer rates was made for water and sewer consumption up to 15,600 gallons per quarter.

The Council has used these survey responses, in addition to Council priorities that were identified during facilitated budget sessions earlier this year, to guide the elected body in making decisions in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. Directly related to the policy question responses, the Town is introducing tiered water and sewer billing and will begin additional water conservation efforts beginning July 1, 2008. Please see the related article in this newsletter [*New Rates Effective July 1, 2008.*]

If you would like to view the survey results in their entirety they are available on the Town's website, <http://www.townoflaplata.org> - follow the link on the left to "National Citizen Survey Results".

JUNE 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Special trash pick-up day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 5/30 to schedule)	3 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	4 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	5	6 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>U.S. Navy Band "The Cruisers"</i>	7 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 8:30 p.m., Screen on the Green – <i>Surf's Up</i> (Rain date: June 14)
8	9	10 7:00 p.m., Town Council work session	11 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	12	13 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Four of a Kind</i>	14 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
15	16 5:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	17 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting (rescheduled from 6/24)	18 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session	19	20 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Roadhouse</i>	21 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 8:30 p.m., Screen on the Green – <i>Hoot</i> (Rain date: June 28)
22	23	24	25 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	26	27 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Country Memories</i>	28 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
29	30					

JULY 2008

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 INDEPENDENCE DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (Friday's trash will be picked up on Thursday July 3.) 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., 4th of July Celebration	5 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
6 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 7/3 to schedule)	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>The Blue Crabs</i>	12 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
13	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 work session	17	18 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Special Blend</i>	19 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 8:30 p.m., Screen on the Green – <i>Daddy Day Camp</i> (Rain date: July 26)
20	21 5:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	22 7:00 p.m., Town Council regular meeting	23 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	24	25 7:00 p.m., Concert – <i>Smith Tucker Band</i>	26 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
27	28	29	30 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	31		

CONSERVATION CORNER

Backyard Actions for a Cleaner Chesapeake Bay

Source: <http://www.iwantmarylandsbest.com/>

There is a series of five fact sheets which highlight various conservation measures—best management practices—that farmers use to produce healthy crops and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Homeowners can apply these same conservation measures to home, lawn, and garden projects. Working together, we can make a difference for the Bay. Available fact sheets are: *Conserve Water, Try Composting, Control Soil Erosion and Rainwater Runoff, Try Pesticide Alternatives and Use Fertilizers Wisely.*

Visit the website www.iwantmarylandsbest.com to read valuable tips for your backyard or call the University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) at 800-342-2507 to receive the brochures by mail. The HGIC website, www.hgic.umd.edu, is an invaluable resource for homeowners and gardeners.

Recycle More

The solid waste services offered by the Town of La Plata are one of the highest rated services by our citizens. Our sanitation staff provides timely and responsive service for an essential municipal service. Since the early 1990s the Town has also offered recycling services, which are currently provided by contract with Waste Management. The Town's recycling day is Wednesday.

Recycling was started as a means to be environmentally responsible, as well as a means to reduce the cost of providing solid waste services. When we recycle paper, metal and plastic, these materials are reused and reduce the amount of materials going into the Charles County Landfill, which is good for the environment and extends the life of the Landfill. Part of the cost of providing solid waste service is the tipping fee the Town pays for each ton of material brought to be dumped in the Landfill, so the more solid waste that is diverted away from the Landfill also saves money for the ratepayers and the Town.

The Town Citizen Survey showed that just 68% of La Plata residents recycle. Nearly one third of survey respondents state they do not recycle. It is a Town Council Service Priority to encourage more of our community to recycle, and to encourage more material be recycled, or not even enter our waste stream. If you have not yet started recycling, please utilize the recycling service offered by the Town. You may get a recycling bin by contacting Town Hall. If you are already recycling, please increase the amount of material you are recycling and also reduce the amount of waste you produce.

Recycling can mean more than bringing your paper, plastic and metal items out for curbside pickup; recycling also includes minimizing waste by:

- Buying products made from recycled materials
- Reducing the amount of items we buy

- Reusing what we can and sharing with others

Here are a few tips that will help you cut down on waste:

- Purchase paper and other items for your home and office that are made with post-consumer recycled content and packaged in recyclable materials.
- Buy in bulk when possible – to reduce the amount of packaging that gets thrown away.
- Choose products with less packaging.
- Buy large recyclable containers of beverages instead of individual serving-size containers. Also, drink more tap water.
- Bring your own reusable bags when you go shopping.
- Donate old clothing to thrift stores, homeless shelters and other community organizations.
- Donate old blankets and towels to animal shelters.
- Use a ceramic mug for beverages rather than using disposable paper, plastic, or foam cups.
- Use the back side of paper when printing from your computer – or always print two-sided.
- Compost fruit, vegetable, and yard waste in your backyard.
- Leave short grass clippings on your lawn to decompose. The clippings are a natural organic fertilizer and return valuable nutrients and moisture to the soil.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Margaret Brent of Maryland

Charles County Public Library – La Plata Branch

Saturday, June 14, 2:00 p.m.

Margaret Brent was the first woman in America to ask for the vote. In a costumed, living history presentation, Mary Ann Jung portrays this outspoken and educated woman and gives an account of life and society in early seventeenth century Maryland.

This living history presentation for adult and high school audiences is provided by the Charles County Public Library, in partnership with the Maryland Humanities Council. For more information, call the Library's La Plata Branch at 301-934-9001, or visit the Charles County Public Library web site at www.ccplonline.org.

Port Tobacco Players (PTP) production

Gypsy

July 25 – August 10: Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

Musical comedy based on the autobiography of Gypsy Rose Lee.

Ticket information: \$15 for Adults; \$12 for Seniors (60 and over) and Students (through high school). For reservations, call the PTP box office at 301-932-6819. For more information about this and other PTP productions, visit their web page at www.ptplayers.com.

Summer Concert Series

All concerts are free and open to the public. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. (See calendars for concerts in June and July; 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. **Please do not bring pets or alcoholic beverages to the concerts.**

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

The Town of La Plata charges a variety of fees for services that the Town provides. These fees are for permits, new construction, rentals, Town utilities, and other services. Fees for services are generally set to recover the costs associated with providing the service. As a result, the Town typically adjusts these rates on an annual basis.

For a complete list of the fees effective July 1, 2008, please visit the Town's website at <http://www.townofaplata.org>. Click on the 'Fee Schedule' link on the left side of the web page to go to the new fee rates. Fees in the Town will generally increase 4% to account for inflationary costs. The Major Facilities Fee for new connections to the Water and Sanitary Sewer System will remain at \$8,525 for single family dwelling units. The recycling fee will increase 5% to \$9.20 and the refuse collection fee will increase 8% to \$68.07 for a single family dwelling unit per quarter.

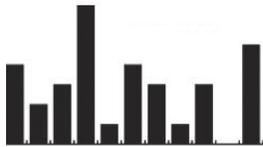
The Town Council wishes to conserve water resources, and in an effort to encourage water conservation, tiered billing rates for water service and for sanitary sewer service have been incorporated within the schedule of fees. There will be two rates for water and two rates for sewer. For the first 15,600 gallons per quarter billed for water and sewer the amount will be reduced \$0.02 and \$0.06 respectively. The FY 2008 water rate is \$2.20 and the sewer rate is \$6.29 for each 1,000 gallons of consumption. The new first rates will be \$2.18 for water and \$6.23 for sewer.

Consumption between 15,601 gallons per quarter and 100,000 gallons per quarter will see a rate increase of \$0.24 for water and \$0.69 for sewer, to the second rate of \$2.44 and \$6.98. Consumption over 100,000 gallons per quarter will be billed at the first rate.

Consumption per quarter (gpq = gallons per quarter)	Rate per 1,000 gal	Water	Sewer
0 to 15,600 gpq	1st Rate	2.18	6.23
15,601 to 100,000 gpq	2nd Rate	2.44	6.98
100,001 gpq and up	1st Rate	2.18	6.23

In La Plata, 59% of residential customers averaged 15,600 gallons or less of consumption per quarter in 2007, and would receive a decrease in their water and sewer based upon that consumption. Establishing the tiered rate is meant to educate consumers about their water consumption and encourage water savings, by offering lower rates for those who use less water. In addition, the Town will be commencing other activities to encourage water conservation in the coming year.

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. Click on the 'Events' link to find out more about La Plata events. The current question is:

To what degree do you agree with the following statement - Many of La Plata's special events are free or mostly free. Does this affect whether you choose to attend or not?

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:

To what degree do you agree with the following statement - La Plata is the preeminent place to live in Charles County. The events, landscaping, decorations, and cleanliness support that view.

- Strongly Agree - 32%
- Somewhat Agree - 37%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree - 12%
- Somewhat Disagree - 6%
- Strongly Disagree - 9%

The work by the Town's Beautification Committee, Design Review Board, and Public Works staff is a big reason for the attractiveness of our Community. Participation from residents and businesses are essential to that success as well. Town Hall staff coordinates the many special events throughout the year. The Town Council has stressed the importance of improving the quality of our public spaces; please look for improvements in the coming months. Additionally, the Town will be making changes and additions to our events. La Plata is a great place to live, and your Town will continue to be the preeminent place in Charles County. Thank you for your participation in the last online poll.

4th of July Celebration

On Friday, July 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Town is hosting a 4th of July Celebration at the Train Station, 101 Kent Avenue. The Train Station and caboose will be open for tours. There will be musical entertainment, a petting farm, moon bounce, hot dogs, lemonade, and ice cream - all free. For more information contact Michelle Miner at 301-934-8421.

Screen on the Green

Movies on the lawn of the Town Hall, under the stars. Refreshments available for purchase. All movies are free and begin at 8:30 (see calendars for movies in June and July), and have a rain date of the following Saturday night. Visit the Town's website for a complete listing of movies: <http://www.townofaplata.org>.

MEET THE TOWN STAFF



Allen Clipper

Allen Clipper joined the Public Works department in April as a Crew Member. Born and raised in Southern Maryland, Allen graduated from La Plata High School. While a senior in high school Allen worked in the Central Warehouse of the Charles County Board of Education. Active in 4-H for many years, Allen enjoys planting a vegetable garden and spending time with his family. Hunting, fishing, cooking, and classic cars are some of his many hobbies. Allen is the proud owner of a 1980 El Camino.

NOW OPEN IN LA PLATA AND COMING SOON TO LA PLATA

[This information is current as of May 1, 2008, and correct to the best of our knowledge. For more information, please contact Carol Rollins, Development Coordinator, Town of La Plata, at crollins@townoflaplata.org or 301-934-8421, ext. 116.]

The following businesses were issued Building Permits and/or Commercial Occupancy Permits during March and April 2008:

Giant Fuel Station
102 Rosewick Road

Lowe's
300 Rosewick Road

Neibauer Dental Care
124 Rosewick Road

PNC Bank
6315 Crain Highway

Popeye's Chicken
6591 Crain Highway

Rosewick Wine & Spirits
206 Rosewick Road

SAIC
113 Howard Street

Sally Beauty Supply
58 Shining Willow Way

Sprint
6478 Crain Highway

Texas Roadhouse
103 Drury Drive

Three Brothers Pizza
13 Shining Willow Way

Town Notes is a publication of the Town of La Plata. If you would like to submit a Community Announcement item (subject to Town approval and space availability), please send it by e-mail to ffrazier@townoflaplata.org.

TOWN OF LA PLATA
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