

Town Notes

News from La Plata Town Hall

April – May 2006

MAYOR'S CORNER



I have had the pleasure of working with Doug Miller since 2001 and I wish him success in his new position in Aberdeen. Although he is leaving La Plata, he has influenced this town through his direction of many projects. Be sure to read his farewell remarks in the profile section.

Mark your calendars for April 29th as we “Celebrate La Plata”. Following the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast that morning, a new attraction will debut - *Tour de La Plata* - a leisurely bike ride through the byroads of our town. Please check the schedule in the newsletter for the times of all events.

La Plata now has several new restaurants and stores which have recently opened and there are more in the building and planning stages. On behalf of the La Plata Business Association, we encourage your patronage of the businesses in town. Thank you.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following day in observance of the holiday listed:

Good Friday Friday, April 14

Memorial Day (observed) Monday, May 29

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.

MEET THE TOWN STAFF Robert Bagley



Robert Bagley began his law enforcement career in 1999 and joined the La Plata Police Department in 2002. He is the department’s Agency Coordinator of the La Plata Community Policing Plan. This program further enhances ongoing Community Policing services provided by the La Plata Police Department. Robert is married with 2 children. He is a volunteer firefighter and EMT with the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department, where he also serves as the Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services. In his spare time he coaches youth soccer.

Town of La Plata Officials

Mayor: Gene Ambrogio

Council:

Wayne Winkler.....Ward 1

C. Keith Back.....Ward 2

Paddy MuddWard 3

Vic E. Newman.....Ward 4

Town Manager: Douglas R. Miller

Assistant Town Manager:

Patricia L. Bembe

Town Clerk: Judith T. Frazier

Treasurer: Joseph W. Norris

Director of Community Development:

Michelle D. Miner

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Director of Planning and Zoning:

Catherine N. Flerlage

Director of Public Works:

Stephen A. Murphy

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

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: dmiller@townoflaplata.org

Website: www.townoflaplata.org

Council Column

FROM WARD 1

Councilman Wayne Winkler

If you recently read the Maryland Independent it stated that we will not be building a sidewalk on Washington Avenue because the money needs to be spent in a certain amount of time. Well, that is not the only money source and I am going to continue to push this project until it's completed. I will be working with Charles County Government regarding right-of-way issues and do whatever needs to be done to get this project off dead center.

I met with the Homeowners Association from Hawthorne Green on March 1st and they have major concerns about a proposed shopping center where the Pepsi Plant is. There are approximately 20 acres of land under contract and this shopping center will house a couple of big box stores plus smaller retail shops. The owner needs to get a stop light on Route 301 for this to work and I hope the State won't grant one. Everybody from the western part of the County will be using Quailwood Parkway and Oriole Lane to get to it, and Quailwood, Jamestowne, and Hawthorne Greene don't need all that traffic.

On a sad note, I hate to see Roy Rogers closing so that we can have another drug store. I hope the owners, Ken Gould and his son, can find another suitable location in La Plata. I love the local information he puts on his marquee. I also love their fried chicken. After the tornado he really helped all the volunteers and County and Town staff with food. I wish him the best.

Guess everybody has seen the starting construction of Talbot Street that the County is building. Right now it's a big, noisy, ugly mess but, when completed, maybe it will help alleviate some of the downtown traffic congestion.

Our Police Station is near complete and by the time you receive this newsletter it should be occupied. Hopefully, we will have an open house to show it off. When furnished, it will have a 60 person meeting room that will also serve as an Emergency Operations Center, if needed. That part of the building is hardened to protect people if we have a severe weather issue.

Stay loose and enjoy this spring.

FROM WARD 2

Councilman Keith Back

It has been a very active few months for your Town Council as we have gone through various public hearings and debates on important issues facing the Town. We are currently going through the budgeting process and setting priorities for services for the upcoming fiscal year. Some of the issues being discussed include ways that the Town can provide even better services to the residents. You may have noticed two important phrases in the preceding statements. We are "your" Town Council and the Town provides "services" to the residents.

One of the overarching themes in our budget and priorities discussion has been about ways to both survey how the residents feel about the services being provided and how the Town can better communicate information about what is going on around the Town.

I know that there are many issues that residents feel very strongly about and are concerned that the Council may not be listening to their views. There will always be more than one viewpoint to all issues that are before the Council. I want to stress again that I do listen to all viewpoints being presented on both sides of an issue and I will always support the decision that is in the overall long term best interest of the Town as a whole and not on short term concerns or promises made before each individual instance of an issue is even discussed.

A discussion of service to the Town residents cannot be complete without thanking Town Manager

Doug Miller for his dedicated service to the Town for the past 18 years. He will be missed as he moves on to a new professional opportunity.

FROM WARD 3

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd

Greetings from Ward 3:

The St. Mary's Avenue streetscape bids are out and work should begin in April. Construction has started at Edelen Station and should progress fast as the weather improves. The Kent Avenue Corridor Community Partnership will have a Spring Festival on Saturday, April 8th from 12-4 PM, including food, music, a moon bounce and egg hunt with lots of prizes, and a few more surprises!!! This includes all the kids and adult kids from all the communities along Kent Avenue – including Kent Square, Phoenix Run, Old Colony and Heritage Place. Come out and enjoy the fun with your neighbors! Flyers will be out shortly with the details.

FROM WARD 4

Councilman Vic E. Newman

FY07 Budget Process Continues

Your Council has had several work sessions covering such areas as: Police Service, Town Management and Council Relations, Finance and Administrative Support, Community Development, Public Works Service, and Water/Wastewater Services. The Council then took each topic and discussed opportunities and priorities to enhance those areas of interest. The following are just a few of the opportunities and priorities thus far discussed on each category:

- Police Service
 - Enact Community Policing, which may include citizens on patrol, enhancing crime watch, and provide a neighborhood liaison. These are among a few recommendations for Community Policing.
 - Review and/or enhance benefits in order to attract and maintain officers.

- Establish formal metrics tracking and reporting. Working with the Charles County Sheriffs Office to ensure no duplication of effort, while defining roles and responsibilities.
- Personnel system performance (accountability)
- Improve incident tracking system
- Traffic Control
- Town Management & Council Relations
 - Increasing assistance to Town Manager
 - Explore Grant position and capabilities
 - Establish tracking database to enhance awareness of projects
 - First class Emergency Operations Center and update Emergency Operations Plan
 - Website upgrade
- Finance & Administrative Support
 - Formalize program to get radio read capability established for Water meters. (Great Cost Savings to Town due to decreased man-hours)
 - Permit tracking system
- Continue and enhance good customer service
- Consolidate on-line services
- Expand hours of operation; extended counter hours
- Community Development
 - Welcome packages to new residents
 - Establishing a yearly Signature event that La Plata would be known for
 - Provide professional map to residents and visitors with landmarks, streets, and business ads.
 - Use outside organization sponsors to bring events to La Plata
 - Continue to promote our La Plata Business Association
 - Communications – Seasonal brochure of events, Section of Town Hall to be used to showcase present and future growth
 - Explore La Plata as an Arts and Entertainment District
- Public Works
 - Refuse Collection
 - Road Maintenance
 - Parks Maintenance
- Water and Wastewater Service
 - Complete comprehensive assessment of health of system
- Town Water Management Plan
- Develop comprehensive system modernization plan
- Work with State and County officials to identify long-term water sources (Regional issue)
- Work with future developers on all engineering and that these developers work together to ensure La Plata residents are delivered a system that will handle all future development.

Your Council is extremely dedicated in providing the services you need and deserve while maintaining excellence in customer service.

This is a great opportunity to be part of the decision making process. The Council and Town Government needs your participation, it is your tax dollars at work. Dates will be published on your Town website. www.townoflaplata.org

Please come out and take part in the various Town meetings published on the Town website. BE A VOICE!

Commissions Reception



On Tuesday, January 31, the Mayor and Council held a reception to honor all of the volunteers who serve as members on Town commissions. Nearly 50 people attended the event, mingling with others and listening to brief presentations by the Commission chairpersons about their commission's roles. Each commission member was thanked and given a portfolio embossed with a picture of the Town Hall.

Members of the Beautification Commission at the Commissions Reception: (left to right) Jane O'Farrell, Chairperson Paula Winkler, Darlene Rose, and Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, ex officio member

APRIL 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your clocks and watches ahead 1 hour. This would be a good day to remember to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms	3 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 3/31 to schedule)	4 4:00 p.m., Town Council meeting 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission Meeting	5 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session 7:30 p.m., Crime Watch Council meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11 7:00 p.m., Town Council meeting	12 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	13	14 GOOD FRIDAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (No change to trash pickup schedule)	15 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market opening day
16	17 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sundaes with the Easter Bunny 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	18 7:00 p.m., Town Council meeting	19 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m. Design Review Board work session	20	21	22 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
23/30	24	25 6:00 p.m., Town Council meeting	26 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	27 7:00 p.m., "La Plata Remembered" slideshow	28	29 7:30 a.m., Mayor's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:30 a.m., Tour de La Plata bike ride 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Celebrate La Plata events

La Plata Town Notes

MAY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Special trash pickup day (Call by 4:00 p.m. Fri., 4/28 to schedule)	2 4:00 p.m., Town Council meeting 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting	3 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	4	5	6 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
7	8	9 7:00 p.m., Town Council meeting	10 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 5:00 p.m., Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	11	12	13 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
14	15 4:00 p.m., Beautification Commission meeting	16 7:00 p.m., Town Council meeting	17 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market 9:00 a.m., Design Review Board work session	18	19	20 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
21	22	23 6:00 p.m., Town Council meeting	24 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market	25	26 7:00 p.m., Concert Austin Cody & the Crossroad Connection	27 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Farmers' Market
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY – TOWN HALL CLOSED (Monday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, May 30.) 11:00 a.m., Memorial Day Ceremony	30	31 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Farmers' Market			

La Plata Town Notes

Special Events

Sundaes with the Easter Bunny

Monday, April 17, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Come have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny and enjoy an ice cream sundae social at the same time. On Easter Monday, the Easter Bunny will be at the Town Hall for pictures and we will also be serving ice cream with all kinds of fun toppings.

“La Plata Remembered”

Information provided by Wayne Winkler

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

The La Plata Community Garden Club will present a slide presentation of La Plata’s early history at La Plata Town Hall, and the public is invited. This event is a presentation of slides that Mrs. Frances Winkler has collected over many years, reliving the early days of La Plata. Since Frances is my mother, I have seen this presentation many times and it is very good. If you enjoy history, you will enjoy this 45-minute presentation.

“Celebrate La Plata”

Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (no rain date)

The Town will be hosting the 5th annual Celebrate La Plata Day on and around the grounds of the Town Hall. There will be plenty of children’s activities, food and family entertainment.

7:30 a.m.: Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast (rain or shine)

As a kick-off to the Celebrate La Plata activities, the Mayor will host the annual breakfast in the Friendship Room of Sacred Heart Church. As in past years, the Knights of Columbus will be cooking and serving a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee, juices and assorted pastries. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m., with guest speakers beginning at 8:15 a.m. There will be a small fee and you may pay at the door.

9:30 a.m.: Tour de La Plata

Take a leisurely bike ride through and around La Plata. The non-competitive ride will begin and end at the Town Hall. All riders will be required to wear a helmet. The course will be determined by La Plata’s own Police Chief Casey Gittings, a bicycling enthusiast.

Entertainment Schedule: *[The events listed are those scheduled by March 3. Keep an eye on the Town’s website and the local paper for a schedule of entertainment.]*

12:00 p.m.: Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids

2:00 p.m.: “Jester’s Box” puppet show performed by Blue Sky Puppet Theatres

3:00 p.m.: High Energy Magic and Illusion of “Speed & Thro”



2006 Summer Concert Series

We are in the planning stages of the 2006 Summer Concert Series. The series will kick off on Friday, May 26, with a performance by “Austin Cody & the Crossroad Connection”. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. on the west lawn of the Town Hall. All concerts are free and open to the public. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for a night of great family entertainment. Parking is limited at the Town Hall but there is ample parking a very short distance away at Sacred Heart Church. 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.

May 26 “Austin Cody & the Crossroad Connection”

June 2 Infinity

June 16 United States Navy Band “Sea Chanters”

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 29, 11:00 a.m.

The Town will host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Town Hall. There will be guest speakers, a wreath laying ceremony, and musical entertainment by the Port Tobacco Players Encore Kids. Refreshments will be provided following the ceremony.

News from the La Plata Police Department

Update on Police Vehicles Donated to City of Biloxi Police Department



The La Plata Police Department received a special guest in December of 2005. Officer Anthony Proctor, from Biloxi, Mississippi, stopped by and presented La Plata's Police Chief with a plaque that depicts the City of Biloxi patch as well as a coin commissioned after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the city.

Most of the Biloxi Police Department's vehicles were destroyed by the flood that accompanied the hurricane. The Town Council decided to donate and deliver three surplus police cars to the Biloxi Police Department. The La Plata Police Department, under the direction of Chief Gittings, had the vehicles inspected for mechanical soundness and re-lettered with "Biloxi" before they were delivered to the City of Biloxi. Officer Proctor advised that he was the recipient of one of the La Plata cars. He was very grateful for the car, which was the same make and model as the one to which he had been assigned.

People sometimes forget that police officers don't get to leave along with other residents being evacuated from a hazardous situation. The area Officer Proctor lives in was supposed to be above the flood level, but when the water started entering in his door, he left his property behind to save a pregnant neighbor and carry her to higher ground.

Officer Proctor has family in the Nanjemoy area and was able to visit for the holidays. Chief Gittings and Sgt. Brooks had the pleasure of meeting several members of Officer Proctor's family when he arrived to deliver the plaque, which will be proudly on display in the new police station when it is completed.

Child ID Kits

DNA ID KIT

**Compact Information
Package which contains:**

- ✓ Current Photo
- ✓ Personal Information
- ✓ Medical Information
- ✓ Detailed physical description, including birthmark and scar chart
- ✓ Fingerprint Chart
- ✓ DNA Sample



STORE IN A SAFE AND SECURE LOCATION.

Another delivery was made during the month of December, this one in the form of prevention and protection. The La Plata Police Department received 500 Child ID Kits from the Amica Insurance Company. After learning of the availability of these Child ID Kits, Sgt. Brooks contacted Mr. Jim Mulholland of the Baltimore Office for Amica Insurance. Mr. Mulholland was able to provide the Department with the 500 kits, and we would like to thank him for them.

The Child ID Kits allow parents, grandparents or guardians the ability of capturing a child's picture, description, fingerprints and, in these kits, DNA. The completed kits are kept by the parents and not the police department. The kits should be updated every six months as the child grows and appearances change. While no one wants to think about a child being kidnapped or lost, the information in one of these kits would assist the police department in the search for the child.

The kits will be provided free of charge to residents of the Town of La Plata, with a limit of one per child. They can be picked up at the La Plata Police station Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The La Plata Police station is currently located at 400 Dorchester Ave. For more information or directions you should call the department at 301-934-1500.

La Plata Citizen Profile



Douglas R. Miller

People Make the Difference

After eighteen years in a job that I absolutely love, I have decided to pursue a very unique and interesting professional opportunity outside of La Plata. But I cannot leave without recognizing and thanking the wonderful people that I have worked with during my tenure here.

The employees of the Town of La Plata are some of the finest, most dedicated people who work in any business, government or institution anywhere. They have a commitment to La Plata that is second to none. I have observed these fine people deal with disaster, deal with hardship, and occasionally deal with people who acted in the ugliest fashion. Our employees pushed through all of this, did their job and made their boss very proud.

Even though I'm moving down the road, La Plata will always be a

very special place for me. And, I will always treasure being associated with such a fine group of public servants. I will miss them dearly.

Please let the Mayor and Council know if you know someone in the Town's residential or business community who should be recognized for their outstanding achievement, volunteer service, community involvement or contribution to the community, no matter how great or small. Provide a brief description of the person and why they should be profiled in Town Notes. Send your information (and a digital image if you have one), to the Mayor and Council: e-mail to jfrazier@townoflaplata.org, or regular mail to Town Notes- La Plata Citizen Profile, P.O. Box 2268, La Plata, MD 20646-2268.

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 email to jfrazier@townoflaplata.org

Town of La Plata

305 Queen Anne Street
P. O. Box 2268
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2268

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LA PLATA, MD
PERMIT NO. 131