

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

Spring is here, and that means our Friday Night Concert Series have commenced for 2015. Each year the concerts seems to grow in popularity and more people arrive with their lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy great music on the lawn of the La Plata Town Hall. The series is truly a community event that can be enjoyed by individuals of all ages and now with our spray pad in place it is even more enjoyable for our youth. I look forward to seeing you at many of the concerts.

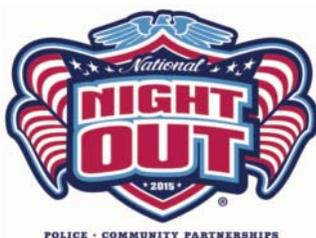
Recently, a resident of La Plata wrote to her Councilman about the high cost of living in La Plata and stated that she and some of her neighbors were planning on moving to a lower cost of living area. She felt that our taxes in general and specifically our utility bills were too high. I am certain that others share her concern and I will use the remainder of this column to address those concerns.

When you elect to live in La Plata you choose to live in an incorporated town. There are certain benefits associated with being in an incorporated town such as the use of public utilities, including public water and sewer, trash collection, snow removal, local police services, road and street maintenance. We organize numerous public events, and work closely with other local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that we provide the best possible service to our residents.

We have very few sources of revenue to pay for the services the Town provides. Most of the revenue for our General Fund

Continued on page 3

## National Night Out Tuesday, August 4, 2015



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.

**New for 2015, participating neighborhoods may apply for a \$200 grant to help support their NNO activities.**

For NNO, neighbors plan barbecues, 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 at [wbrooks@townoflaplata.org](mailto:wbrooks@townoflaplata.org) or call (301) 934-1500.

## LA PLATA FARMERS' MARKET

Featuring fresh fruits and vegetables; local, Southern Maryland seasonal produce; hand-crafted items; and homemade goods



Open all year  
 Every Saturday 8AM to 3PM  
 Every Wednesday 8AM to 6PM  
 In the parking lot of the Charles County Courthouse, Washington Avenue in La Plata

For more information, contact Town Hall at (301) 934-8421.

[www.TownofLaPlata.org](http://www.TownofLaPlata.org)



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD



## COUNCIL COLUMN

### Councilman Lynn Gilroy, Ward 3

Well we all survived this very cold winter. Spring is now with us and summer is around the corner. I look forward to our summer concert series and that schedule is on our web site and within this town bulletin. I want to thank all of our town staff for putting on these special events throughout the year.

We have started working on our budget for the upcoming year and while the revenues are still flat we are still planning some improvements where we can. We are seeing some growth in the town but not what we need to increase our revenues.

We have been advising you for some time now about the reduction in state highway user revenues (HUR) that the town has experienced. When Governor Hogan ran for office he promised that he would restore those funds to the municipal governments. His first budget is now complete and we have not seen the final numbers yet on what the HUR funds will be for us. The state-wide allocation of funding increased by four million, which we anticipate will bring local governments up to 57% of full HUR funding. I am hoping that future State budgets will restore 100% of local road funding so we can get our road and sidewalk maintenance back on a more vigorous track.

Our Chief of Police Carl Schinner continues to bring to the Council's attention the outstanding work that our police officers do every day. In January of this year the Police Department had its first recognition ban-

quet. The officers were recognized for their hard work and dedication. The event was well attended and I would like to congratulate all the officers.

All of our entire public safety group, the La Plata Police Department, the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, and the Charles County Rescue Squad put their lives on the line every day for all of us and we need to recognize them and thank them for their dedication and sacrifice.

I look forward in hearing from you so we can try and solve our future issues together. Please feel free to contact me at [lgilroy@townofaplata.org](mailto:lgilroy@townofaplata.org), by calling Town Hall at (301) 934-8421 or by cell at (301) 653-1440.

### Councilman Joe Norris, Ward 4

As usual the calendar dictates much of what we do and the Annual Budget is no exception. Staff has been working on the budget since January and we have been reviewing their work. After much thought and study it appears we will be holding the tax rate at .32 as it has been since 2001. With our 2015-2016 General Fund Revenues flat and very likely continuing that way for at least two more years we do not have any big projects planned.

We have also been working on our Enterprise Fund Budgets for the Water and Sewer Fund, the Sanitation Fund and the Storm Water Fund. All of these funds are operated like a business with the idea that the fees that generate the revenues will be enough to cover expenses. It appears with careful planning and careful

execution by staff we will be able to hold the fees the same as last year with the exception of the Sanitation Fund where we hope to be able to reduce the fees slightly. All of this with no cut back in service.

On a happy note we offer congratulations to Bobby Stahl and the Public Works staff for the award they received from the Maryland Rural Water Association as the 2015 Outstanding Waste Water Treatment Plant. It is nice to be recognized for all the hard work and efforts that have gone into upgrading our Waste Water Treatment Plant to a state of the art system.

By the time you read this our Summer Concerts will have begun. Please come out and enjoy the great music presented each Friday evening beginning at 7 P.M. We have many different bands including several of the military bands to enjoy. To see who is playing and other useful information please go to our website at [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org).

I always like to encourage you to take advantage of our recycling programs. It is good for the town and for the environment in general. We have the curbside recycling and we also offer battery recycling at Town Hall for most small batteries. You may also dispose of used oil at our old Public Works Shop.

As always if you have any questions or concerns I may be reached by phone at home (301) 934-9230 or by email at [jnorris@townofaplata.org](mailto:jnorris@townofaplata.org). Thank you for allowing me to serve.

## KENT AVENUE CORRIDOR CLEAN UP DAY



On Saturday, April 18, the La Plata Police Department partnered with the citizens in the Kent Avenue Corridor, as well as members of the Charles County States Attorney's Office, Charles County Social Services, Chick-Fil-A of La Plata, Mayor Roy Hale, Councilman Joe Norris, Town Manager Daniel Mears,

the Town of La Plata Public Works, and the Town of La Plata Department of Inspections to clean up trash in the neighborhood. The weather and community interactions were great! Everyone is looking forward to the Block Party on August 8th!

## Code Corner

Please be a good neighbor and remember to clean up after your pets, both when you're out walking with your pets on their leash and in your own yard. It's the neighborly thing to do, plus there are provisions in the Town Code of Ordinances requiring it.

67-5 - Animals at large.

No person shall permit an animal to be at large at any time within the town. Each animal shall be confined to the property of its owner or the person who has its possession or control, except when the pet is leashed, harnessed or otherwise similarly and securely restrained and accompanied by its owner or keeper.

67-5.1 - Animal excreta.

A. No person in possession of an animal shall walk or exercise such animal without being in possession of a container sufficient to immediately remove and dispose of the animal's excreta in a sanitary manner.

B. It is unlawful for any person or owner in possession of an animal to fail to remove any of the animal's excreta deposited on the public ways, recreational parks or other property, public or private, not owned by the person or owner in possession of the animal.

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

### Commercial Building Permits issued 3/1/2015 to 5/1/2015

- 15 Shining Willow Way – Laboratory Corporation
- 103 Centennial Street – Neel Properties
- 102 Centennial Street – Facchina Group of Companies, Inc.
- 10 Shining Willow Way – Applebees
- 6390 Crain Highway – Red Oak Bistro
- 54 Drury Drive – Sports Clips Haircuts

### Commercial Occupancy Permits issued 3/1/2015 to 5/1/2015

- 124 Rosewick Road – Ben Bashin Dental office
- 6231 Crain Highway – Gregory Conklin State Farm Insurance
- 6549 Crain Highway – ECO Beauty Source
- 102 Centennial Street, Suite 201 – Facchina Construction Company
- 40 Drury Drive – Davi Nails & Spa

## TOWN DONATES VEHICLE TO HOSPITAL



The Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department were pleased to donate a used police vehicle to our community partners at the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center. Mayor Roy Hale, Chief Carl Schinner, and Detective

Sergeant Bill Brooks presented the keys to hospital staff during the April Town Council Business Meeting. The hospital will use the vehicle as a security vehicle around the hospital campus.

### Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

**Friday, July 3, 2015**

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call (301)934-8421 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

## TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

Council:

- Wayne Winkler . . . . . Ward 1
- C. Keith Back . . . . . Ward 2
- Lynn D. Gilroy . . . . . Ward 3
- Joseph W. Norris . . . . . Ward 4

Town Manager:

Daniel J. Mears

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner

Director of Planning:

Jeremy D. Hurlbutt

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

Manager of Inspections: James Q. Yates

305 Queen Anne Street,  
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Telephone: (301) 934-8421 / (301) 870-3377

La Plata Police Department: (301) 934-1500

Email: [mminer@townofaplata.org](mailto:mminer@townofaplata.org)

Website: [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org)

### MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

is derived from real property taxes paid by our residents and businesses in the town but a large part of our tax base is exempt from property taxes due to the nature of their respective organizations, such as governmental entities, school, and fire and rescue. The La Plata real property tax rate of 32 cents per \$100 of assessed value has not changed since 2001 when it was lowered to 32 cents. We have been able to achieve this remarkable accomplishment by careful financial planning for many years. Consider the many tax increases you have witnessed by county, state, and federal agencies during this same period of time. We will maintain the same tax rate for the next fiscal year beginning on July 1. We also work with the Charles County Government on a tax differential, an amount that is credited to each taxpayer's annual real property tax bill, for services that the county does have to provide to residents of La Plata. The last two fiscal years this amounted to 9.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The net effect was that your town tax rate was not 32 cents but actually 22.5 cents. Many full service towns and cities in Maryland have rates that exceed 60 cents.

Our water, sewer, and trash collection services are managed separately from the general fund in enterprise funds. These services are billed quarterly and reflect the cost of providing these important functions to all La Plata residents and businesses.

The quality of these services is extremely high because nothing less is acceptable to your Town Government or the recipients of the services provided. We have sufficient water capacity to meet current needs and the projected future growth for La Plata. Our Waste Water Treatment Plant recently completed an upgrade to the highest standard in the State and received recognition by the Maryland Rural Water Association as the best treatment facility in the state for the current year. Our trash pickups are reliable and the new cans provided are keeping our community cleaner and more attractive. Recycle containers also help the environment and provide fewer opportunities for wind blown debris.

Providing quality service is expensive and we strive to find ways to reduce costs where possible. You may be able to find less expensive locations in which to live, but La Plata is still a very good value for the cost of residing here.

As your Mayor, I am always receptive to comments, both positive and critical. You may reach me at Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

# LA PLATA TOWN SERVICES

## Special Trash Pickup

Bulk items are picked up the first Monday of each month, or the following Monday if the first one is a holiday. Large amounts of loose material (such as brush) should be bundled or bagged in such a manner that the weight is less than 50 lbs. The Town reserves the right not to pick up items too heavy to safely handle. General construction cleanup and hazardous materials are not eligible. Items must be at curbside by 7:30 a.m. on pickup day. Call Town Hall before pickup day to be placed on the list. Billing for special trash pickup is included on your quarterly utility bill.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The next Household hazardous waste collection is Saturday, June 6, 2015 from



CHARLES COUNTY  
**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION**

is not on site.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, oil based paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

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

For more information, call the Charles County Department of Public Facilities, Environmental Resources Division at (301) 932-3599.

## Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pick ups will only take place on Monday and Fridays. Containers of yard waste ONLY – leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches may be put out on Mondays and Fridays. The containers must be marked “Yard Waste”. Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 50lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed – if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

## Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

### If your regular trash collection day is:

Friday, July 3

### Recycling:

Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, July 1 as scheduled.

### Yard Waste Pick Up:

There will be no Yard Waste Pick Up on Friday, July 3

### Special Pick Up

Monday, June 1

Monday, July 6

### Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, July 2

# LA PLATA EXPLORERS PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL EXPLORER TRAINING



La Plata Police Explorers dedicate hundreds of hours each year to the Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department. From assisting with traffic control at parades to assisting officers in handing out information bulletins about counterfeit money being

distributed in our business community, La Plata Explorers are making a difference. Thus, ensuring the Explorers are properly trained to carry out their current mission and to prepare them for a career in law enforcement is a priority.

On April 11, members of the La Plata Explorer Post participated in the First Regional Explorer Training event in Bel Air, Maryland. Explorers from Prince George's, Baltimore, Montgomery, Bel Air, and La Plata Police Departments and explorers from the Prince George's and Harford Counties Sheriffs Office participated in the daylong event. The training focused on traffic stops, responding to a burglary in progress, domestic disputes, building searches, and officer down first aid drills. The training event was sponsored by the Potomac Boundaries Advisors Association.

Corporals Jason Posey and Michael Payne are the La Plata Police Department advisors.

# JUNE 2015

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

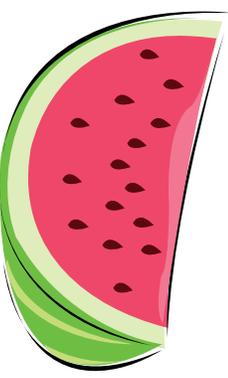
SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up, (please call by 5/29 to be put on list)	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime Watch Council meeting; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	Farmers Market 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up Franklin Square Band; 7:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up Franklin Square Band; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hazardous Waste Disposal

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	No Parks Meeting for June Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Commission meeting; 10:00 a.m. Four of a Kind Band; 7:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up Beautification Commission meeting; 10:00 a.m. Flag Day Charles County Arts Alliance show	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Flag Day Charles County Arts Alliance show

14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Mayor and Council work session; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up U.S. Navy Band "The Sea Chanters"; 7:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up U.S. Navy Band "The Sea Chanters"; 7:00 p.m.	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day 	Mayor and Council Business Meetings; 7:00 p.m. Kids Show, Blue Sky Puppets	Mayor and Council Business Meetings; 7:00 p.m. Kids Show, Blue Sky Puppets	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Yard Waste Pick Up Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

28	29	30	<p>Don't forget! Come out and have some fun at our Watermelon Bash on Saturday July 4th.</p> 			
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up				

# July 2015

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Save the Date!  
National Night Out 2015  
is Tuesday, August 4th.



**1**  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Design Review Board  
meeting; 9:00 a.m.  
Crime Watch Council  
meeting; 7:00 p.m.

**2**  
Town Hall Closed  
No Yard Waste Pick Up  
Trash Pick Up 7/2/15  
Paul Thomas and MWB  
Band; 7:00 p.m.

**4**  
  
4th of July Watermelon  
Bash  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**5**  
Yard Waste Pick Up  
Special Pick Up  
(please call by 7/2 to be  
put on list)

**6**  
Planning Commission  
meeting; 7:00 p.m.  
Kids show, "Science  
Tellers"; 10:00 a.m.

**8**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
No Parks and Recreation  
meeting this month

**9**  
Yard Waste  
Pick Up  
Beautification  
Commission  
meeting; 10:00 a.m.  
Sara Gray Band;  
7:00 p.m.

**11**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**12**  
Yard Waste Pick Up

**13**  
Mayor and Council work  
session; 7:00 p.m.

**14**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Design Review Board  
meeting; 9:00 a.m.

**15**  
Yard Waste Pick Up  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Band Electric Brigade;  
7:00 p.m.

**16**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**19**  
Yard Waste Pick Up

**20**  
Mayor and Council work  
session; 7:00 p.m.

**21**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**22**  
Yard Waste Pick Up  
Roadhouse Band;  
7:00 p.m.

**23**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**26**  
Yard Waste Pick Up

**27**  
Kids Show, "DinoRock-  
Dinosaurs Forever";  
10:00 a.m.  
Mayor and Council  
business meeting; 7:00 p.m.

**28**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**29**  
Yard Waste Pick Up  
The Luck Few Band;  
7:00 p.m.

**30**  
  
Farmers Market:  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny made one last stop at Town Hall on Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>. The children enjoyed delicious sundaes from Dairy Queen and made a spring craft to take home.



## Celebrate LA PLATA!

The community enjoyed a day of family fun at Town Hall on Saturday, April 25 at Celebrate La Plata. Over 50 craft, business and food vendors were on display with a variety of items for sale such as handcrafted jewelry, candles, decorations and delicious food.

New this year on the west lawn of Town Hall, the Family Fitness Zone sponsored by World Gym La Plata promoted the benefits of physical activity and eating healthier. The Family Fitness Zone included health, wellness, and fitness vendors, inflatable obstacle course and demonstrations for the entire family.

Celebrate La Plata included a number of free activities for children. Children had the chance to create a hands-on art projects at the Art Smart Tent. Miss Busy Bee provided free face painting and glitter tattoos. Children also enjoyed the inflatable activities and rides such as the pedal cars, moon bounce, sandstorm ride, and first down football toss on the east lawn.

In front of Town Hall, Raptors Rule, a live, interactive bird of prey program was presented by Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center (NCEEC), the environmental education center of Charles County Public Schools. High Energy Magic of Speed wowed the children with his illusions and tricks.

The crowd gathered on La Grange Ave at 3 pm to view the La Plata Bed Races. The teams had a rolling good time! Thanks to all the teams that participated in this year's Bed Races - 253D Engineer Company, MDARNG, 301 Derby Dames, Chick-fil-A at La Plata, Da S.W.A.G. Crew from ABC Wellness & Fitness Center, Facchina Construction Company, Inc., Our Place Waldorf Soup Kitchen, Relay for Life Charles County, Sherry's Angels, and St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels.



## 2015 Winners

1st Place - Sherry's Angels

2nd Place - St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels

Best Decorated Bed - Our Place Waldorf Soup Kitchen

Best Decorated Team - St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels

Golden Bed Pan Award - Chick-fil-A at La Plata



*Our Place Waldorf Soup Kitchen vs. Facchina Construction Company, Inc.*



*St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels vs. Relay for Life Charles County*



*Chick-fil-A at La Plata vs. Da S.W.A.G. Crew from ABC Wellness & Fitness Center*



*301 Derby Dames vs. 253D Engineer Company, MDARNG*



*Sherry's Angels*

## TOWN OF LA PLATA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join us for the Friday night Summer Concert Series at the La Plata Town Hall. The weekly concerts take place on the lawn at La Plata Town Hall at 305 Queen Anne Street. Concert goers are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. Coolers are allowed, but no alcohol, please. Concessions are available from the Town's food trailer located near the back of the parking lot; an ice cream truck is also stationed there for your enjoyment. A play area for children, the Kids' Zone, allows parents to enjoy the concert while keeping an eye on the little ones. For more information, contact La Plata Town Hall at (301) 934-8421, or check the full concert schedule at [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org).

## June

Friday June 5th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Franklin Square Band

Rock, Modern Rock, Country, Blues, 90's Alternative, Acoustic, Bagpipes, & Drums

Continued on page 8

## SPECIAL EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Friday June 12th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Four of a Kind

Oldies, Classic Rock, Country, Funk, & Blue

Friday June 19th: 7 PM

U.S. Navy Band The Sea Chanters

Traditional choral music, including sea chanteys, patriotic fare, opera, Broadway, & contemporary

Friday June 26th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Drivin' Muzzy

Country

### July

Friday July 3rd: 7 PM to 9 PM

Paul Thomas and MWB

Oldies from the 50's and 60's

Friday July 10th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Sara Gray Band

Top 40 Country/Classic Rock

Friday July 17th: 7 PM

U.S. Naval Academy Band Electric Brigade

Pop & Rock Favorites

Friday July 24th: 7 PM to 9 PM

Roadhouse

Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country

Friday July 31st: 7 PM to 9 PM

The Lucky Few

Rock and Roll



## Summer Fun at Town Hall

The Town of La Plata will host five summer shows for kids at Town Hall. The shows are geared towards preschool and elementary age children and are approximately 45 minutes long. The shows are free and open to the public. Shows will be held outdoors on the West lawn where the Friday night concerts take place (weather permitting - shows will not be moved indoors). Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. No concessions will be available, but you are welcome to bring drinks and snacks along.

### 2015 Kids' Summer Show Schedule

**Tuesday June 23rd: 10 AM**

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre

"The Three (Not So) Little Pigs"

**Tuesday, July 7th: 10 AM**

Science Tellers - Super Heroes

**Tuesday, July 28th: 10 AM**

Class Acts Art - DinoRock - Dinosaurs Forever

**Tuesday, August 18th: 10 AM**

Reggie Rice, SuperMagicMan

**Tuesday, August 25th: 10 AM**

Rocknoceros

### National Night Out Mini-Grant



The Town of La Plata invites neighborhood associations and communities to submit the National Night Out Mini-Grant application for review. Eligible grants will be awarded up to \$200. Deadline to submit application is June 22, 2015. Grant applications are available for down-

load on the Town's website [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org) or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at [cwilson@townofaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townofaplata.org) or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142.

National Night Out (NNO) brings 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. Town of La Plata National Night Out Mini-Grant is designed to provide an opportunity for Town of La Plata residents to strengthen their neighborhoods through producing a National Night Out celebration for their community. National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2015.

### Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant

Hawthorne Greene held their Energy Challenge Kick off on April 22 and it was a great turn out! Funds were awarded from the Town of La Plata's Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant for this event.

For future Neighborhood Event Mini-Grants of up to \$500 look for grant applications for download on the Town's website [www.townofaplata.org](http://www.townofaplata.org).



# TOWN OF LA PLATA 2014 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT PWSID: 008 0025

## Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2014. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of the Town of La Plata.

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

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Jay Janney at 410-729-8350, e-mail [jjann@menv.com](mailto:jjann@menv.com)**.

### For More Information:

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

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

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

### Special points of interest:

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

### Definitions:

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



Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed EPA's MCL	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plant</b>			
<b>Well 5 - Kent Ave on Kent Square -Plant I.D. 01</b>			
Fluoride (2012 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	270 ppb	4000 ppb
Chromium (2012 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel/pulp mills	100 ppb	2 ppb	100 ppb
Barium (2012 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries	2000 ppb	46 ppb	2000 ppb
Gross Beta (2010 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	8.4 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
<b>Well 8 - Box Elder Road -Plant I.D. 04</b>			
Barium (2013 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries	2000 ppb	3.9 ppb	2000 ppb
Fluoride (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	601 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2009 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	2.1 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2009 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	1.0 pCi/l	N/A
<b>Well 9 - Clarks Run on Silver Linden Drive -Plant I.D. 05</b>			
Barium (2013 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries	2000 ppb	3.5 ppb	2000 ppb
Fluoride (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	526 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	2.9 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
<b>Well 10 - Washington Ave. - Plant I.D. 06</b>			
Fluoride (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	811 ppb	4000 ppb
Barium (2013 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries	2000 ppb	7.4 ppb	2000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2013 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	7.2 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2013 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	0.1 pCi/l	N/A
<b>Well 11 - Rosewick Crossing - Plant I.D. 07</b>			
Barium (2013 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries	2000 ppb	4.7 ppb	2000 ppb
Fluoride (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	4000 ppb	664 ppb	4000 ppb
Gross Alpha (2010 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	4.9 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2010 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	0.3 pCi/l*	N/A
<b>Notations:</b> * EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles ** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required. Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			

Regulated in the Distribution	Action Level	Highest Level	Ideal Goal
Copper (2014 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: corrosion of household plumbing	1300 ppb (90th percentile)	192 ppb	1300 ppb
Regulated in the Distribution	Action Level	Highest Level	Ideal Goal
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2014 Testing)	80 ppb	(Range 1.02 - 8.23 ppb)	n/a
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection	60 ppb	(Range 0.0 - 5.25 ppb)	n/a

The table above lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2014 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2014. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

## Important information about Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 7.2 pCi/l which is below the 15 pCi/l MCL.

## Sources of Drinking Water

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

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

## Lead Prevention

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is

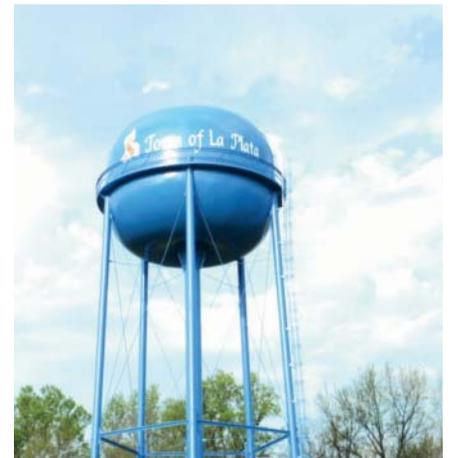
primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of La Plata is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>**.

## Advanced technology now available to consumers

The Town of La Plata has invested in several innovative technologies in order to help conserve our natural resources and to help meet future needs. A new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) was installed in August 2012 to automate the Town's water meter reading and billing system. This system allows residents to access their account information over the internet and set alerts to notify them of potential leaks. In addition, the Town now has the ability to detect leaks in system mains to reduce major problems of leaking pipes under Town roadways. Utility customers who would like to be able to access their accounts using this new technology will be able to do so after contacting the Town at 301-934-8421 or emailing [cjohnson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cjohnson@townoflaplata.org) to set up their account.

## Radon

The result of the March 2014 radon sample was 265 pCi/l. Radon is a



radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

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



## WEBSITE POLL



Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> to participate in an online poll. Click on the 'Snap Poll' link on the left side of the web page to go to the poll and see the results to date. The current question is:

The visual appeal of La Plata (architecture, clean streets, landscaping, signage, building configuration) is more attractive than other parts of Charles County?

Strongly Agree  
Somewhat Agree  
Neither Agree nor Disagree  
Somewhat Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

### April Website Poll Results

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

In which department was the La Plata employee you had the most recent contact?

Administration - 44%  
Finance - 11%  
Planning - 22%  
Police - 11%  
Public Works - 11%

The Town of La Plata has several departments that are responsible for delivery of municipal services. A third of the Town's staff is in Public Works, a third in the Police Department, and a third in Planning, Finance, and Administration. With just over 50 employees, the Town staff has a lot of responsibility spread across the workforce.

La Plata's services include police protection, trash removal, land use planning, accounts receivable processing, sewage collection and treatment, rental inspections, traffic enforcement, park maintenance, building permits, potable water production and distribution, recycling, criminal investigations, new construction inspections, accounts payable processing, community events, stormwater facility inspection, community facility rentals, property maintenance inspections, fleet and vehicle maintenance, code enforcement, payroll, legal, insurance, human resource management, elections, public records maintenance, IT, community patrol, architectural review, and more.

Many of the very basic services that are needed to make a community work are provided by the employees of the Town of La Plata. You may not often have an opportunity to interact with the people who make the water clean, ensure buildings are constructed safely, protect the community from crime, remove our trash, or add enjoyment through parks and community events, but they work among us every day.

Occasionally our residents send a letter to the Town Council letting them know about the great service they received from one of the Town staff. If you have the opportunity to interact with one of La Plata's employees and are pleased with their work, please take a moment to thank them. They will appreciate your consideration of their efforts.

## LA PLATA EARNS WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM MRWA



Maryland Rural Water Association (MRWA) is a non-profit 501(c) corporation, founded in 1990. The MRWA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the rural and small communities of Maryland regarding the security, safety, and availability of affordable drinking water, and the proper treatment of wastewater to ensure protection of the environment.

In 1992, MRWA established an Awards Program to recognize outstanding effort and accomplishments of member systems, industry members, and individuals associated with the rural water systems. The Awards Program is a way for MRWA to provide visibility and

distinction to its members.

During the annual MRWA conference in early May, La Plata received the Wastewater System of the Year Award. This award was presented to La Plata for the improved quality and consistency of the treatment process used in its Wastewater Treatment Plant and the quality and consistency of wastewater service it provided to its customers.

Over the past five years, a number of major improvements were made to the sewer collection system in La Plata to increase its capacity. As a result, Sanitary Sewer Overflows have

become a thing of the past in La Plata.

In 2002, La Plata converted its Wastewater Treatment Plant to a biological nutrient removal process that reduced the amount of nutrients being discharged into the Potomac River and then into the Chesapeake Bay. This upgrade greatly reduced the amount of chemicals being used to treat sewage and was a requirement of the Maryland Department of the Environment.

During the last four years, La Plata's Plant was upgraded to Enhanced Nutrient Removal which reduced the amount of nutrients being discharged even further as a requirement of the Maryland Department of the Environment. The Town elected not to hire an outside firm to manage the construction during this upgrade, instead using Town personnel to perform this function. This not only saved more than \$500,000 dollars but provided a much closer monitoring of the project that generated more than 40 changes in the design that made the process much more efficient and reliable.

The award serves as recognition for the years of hard work by Director of Operations Bobby Stahl, consultant Bill Eckman, and the entire Operations Team, and the Maryland Environmental Service.

# TOWN BUSINESS FORUM



On April 21, the Town hosted a Business Forum where all La Plata businesses were invited. Over the years, the Town has had a strong dialogue with members of the business community, through representation on the Town's Boards and Commissions, through vision planning, through the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, and the various business associations representing La Plata businesses. Three of the Town's five Council members own, or have owned

businesses in La Plata, and many business owners serve or have served on Town Boards and Commissions.

Prior to this forum the Town hosted meetings of all La Plata businesses in the latter part of 2013 and beginning of 2014 which led to the resurrection of the La Plata Business Association. The association had stopped meeting in 2010 and reformed in 2014 after the Town convened those meetings.

The purpose of this forum was to provide an opportunity for businesses to interface with Town staff and elected officials.

The Town would be available to answer all questions about Town services, code requirements, utilities, and anything else businesses need to know about the Town. Representatives from La Plata's Finance Department, Special Events, Police Department, Planning Department, Public Works, and Administration set up displays highlighting what their department offers and how they can help a

business. During the event local business owners visited the various displays picking up useful information to help them navigate their business questions. There was also an informal Question and Answer Session where the Town Council also shared with the audience the various projects and activities going on in Town.

## Local District Winner of the 2015 Mayor's Essay Contest

Rachel Nottestad a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student of St. Mary's Bryantown School, Ms. Slay's class was the winner of District 4 (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties). The contest is sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and each year, MML and the Maryland Mayors' Association invite 4<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout Maryland to participate in a statewide essay contest: "If I Were Mayor, I would...". This year's theme was Respect. Nearly 2,000 entries were received from around the state. This year's winners will receive \$100 cash, Governor's Citation, and a boat cruise of Annapolis on the Harbor Queen during a recognition ceremony on May 14.

## Efficiency Corner

### Making La Plata More Efficient

With resources strained by challenges in the economy, it is vital that the Town explore ways to make its operations more efficient to save money, time, and add value to the services provided. Town staff is charged with finding new ways to improve services, and the Town regularly invests in technology or implements process changes to drive efficiencies.

### Mobile Reporting

Most every police vehicle in the United States has a computer to assist officers in their daily duties as was covered in the April/May 2013 Efficiency Corner article on Mobile Data Terminals. The La Plata Police Department upgraded that technology and went live with mobile reporting. This new software allows officers to type reports in their cruisers and search the Department's Records Management System while in the field. This enhanced technology can provide officers with floor plans of buildings and photos of special needs citizens such as individuals with Alzheimer's and other at risk members of our community where time is essential to ensure their safe recovery. The technology also allows officers to spend more time in the field which will lead to quicker response times and greater visibility.



# TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

A horizontal row of six stars on a blue background. From left to right, the colors are red, white, blue, red, white, and blue. The stars are stylized with a slight shadow effect.

## 4th of July Watermelon Bash

**At La Plata Town Hall  
Saturday July 4  
10:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Hot dogs   Watermelon   Water slides   Contests**

A horizontal row of five small, square photographs. From left to right: 1. A colorful inflatable water slide with a rainbow arch at the top. 2. A large, active fountain in a park setting. 3. A group of people sitting at a long white table, possibly participating in a contest or meal. 4. A food stand or booth with a white canopy tent. 5. A group of people, including children, participating in a water gun fight or similar activity.