

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

On April 30th, we held our 13th Celebrate La Plata Day, derived in the aftermath of the 2002 tornado, but now dedicated to the rebirth and revitalization of our Town.

I believe the people who came out experienced a great day highlighted by the numerous booths, vendors, and events that promoted this important annual event.

We have a great Town and community spirit that is truly on display when we hold these important celebrations. This event and many others held throughout the year will continue to bolster this spirit and will motivate current and future residents to become active in keeping La Plata a wonderful place to live and work.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have completed our budget deliberations, held public hearings and established our financial plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Once again, the Town Council has agreed not to raise the basic tax rate in La Plata, keeping it at the same rate that it has been since 2001:

\$0.32 cents per \$100 of the assessed value of real property. The Charles County Commissioners have approved a tax differential for the next fiscal year in recognition of services provided by the Town that are not required to be duplicated by the county. The tax differential serves to reduce

Continued on page 3

Thank You!

On April 26, Mayor Roy Hale presented Tom and Judy Mudd a Town seal thanking them for their donation of high density filing shelves to the Town. Mr. Mudd closed his law office in La Plata and offered the extensive shelving to the Town. The shelving has been put to very good use. A records room has been created and documents are being organized and filed for easier use and storage. The very generous donation significantly improves the quality of La Plata's storage of permanent records, and a comparable new system would have cost the Town over \$60,000 new.



Local District Winner of the 2016 Mayor's Essay Contest

Each year the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association invite 4th grade students throughout Maryland to participate in a statewide essay contest: "If I Were Mayor, I would...". Aidan Hanley, a 4th grade student of St. Mary's Bryantown School in Ms. Slay's class was the winner of District 4 (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties). Nearly 3,000 entries were received from around the state. This year's winners were recognized on May 12 in the Governor's Reception Room at the Maryland State house in Annapolis.



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Lynn Gilroy, Ward 3

By the time this goes to press spring will be in full bloom. We recovered from the blizzard and in early May it seemed like it would never stop raining. Summer is right around the corner and all the children will be out of school. Please watch out for them in your neighborhoods. I always look forward to our summer concert series and that schedule is on our web site and within this Town bulletin. I always like to thank all of our Town staff for putting on these special events throughout the year.

We are almost finished with our budget. It is one of the most important functions that we as a Council have. The revenues are still flat but we have some more improvements in the horizon. As a result of our fiscally conservative finances we are proud to say that this new budget again will not see any increases in the tax rate. This rate has remained the same since 2001. That is almost unheard of in today's society and demands on local government.

Some of the improvements and modifications to our local parks that we have planned include work on the Wills Park Community Center bathrooms, work on a Tilghman Lake floating dock, exercise stations, and also shore line improvements. These last few are a result of a grant from the state.

We are looking forward to some new business in the town including Sonic and some new restaurants in Rosewick Crossing. Let us visit them and help make them successful.

Our Chief of Police Carl Schinner continues to bring to the Council's attention the outstanding work that our police officers do every day. The department had its second recognition banquet and I would like to recognize

all the hard work they do and congratulate the award winners.

Whenever you get a chance thank all of our public safety group, the La Plata Police Department, the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, and the Charles County Rescue Squad for their dedication and the placing of 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@townoflaplata.org, by calling Town Hall at (301) 934-8421 or by cell at (301) 653-1440.

Councilman Joe Norris, Ward IV

Welcome to summer. Bring your blanket or chair and join us on the lawn at Town Hall for our Friday night concert series. As usual we will have various bands for our entertainment. Many of our old favorites will be there including the military bands and a few new ones. It is always a fun evening, so come out and get a free door prize ticket and see what you can win.

In this issue of the newsletter I always talk about our budget work. This year is no different. The budget guides what we are able to do for the year. As it has been for a number of years the General Fund Budget will be tight without any big extras. The majority of the revenues for this budget comes from the Real Estate Tax and Income Tax. Again this year we plan to hold the tax rate at \$0.32 per hundred dollars of assessment which means our revenue will remain pretty flat. One bright note is the tax differential credit which La Plata Properties receive on their tax bill is going to be slightly higher this year at \$0.135 cents per hundred which will

mean an effective rate of \$0.185 cents per hundred for our real estate tax. We are grateful that the County Commissioners follow the tax differential formula and fully fund this credit which the citizens are due in recognition of the services provided by the Town that the County does not have to provide.

When it gets really hot and you would like to cool off, bring your little ones and other young people to the Splash Pad located on the Town Hall grounds.

As usual I encourage you to take advantage of our recycling programs. This is good for the Town financially and good for the environment for everyone. Remember we also take batteries for recycling in Town Hall. We can handle the smaller batteries that are in your flashlights, cameras, phones, and other small electronics. Thanks for caring.

As always if you have any questions, comments or issues, I may be reached by phone at (301) 934-9230 or by email at jnorris@townoflaplata.org. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Code Corner

146-6 – Open containers of alcoholic beverages.

No person shall possess in an open container any alcoholic beverage anywhere within industrial or commercial zoned districts or upon any street, avenue, alley, parking lot, playground, park or sidewalk or in any building without the owner's or lessee's express consent, except on premises for which an on-sale license for the sale of alcoholic beverages shall have been issued; provided, however, that the Chief Executive Officer may permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on any of the above places during special events or if, in his judgment, the same would be in the public interest.

NEW EMPLOYEE

Ted Bellevoine



Ted Bellevoine was born in St. George's, Bermuda and traveled Europe with his parents during his father's service in the United States

Navy. Upon retirement from the Navy, the family settled in Lexington Park, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Ted graduated from Great Mills High School in 1985, and started his law enforcement career in 1989; retiring from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office in September 2015, after 26 years. Ted enjoys the law enforcement family and serving the community. Ted was instrumental in starting the first Community Police program for Lexington Park in 1994; he has held various positions to include Command of the Dive Team, Collision Reconstruction Team, Motor Unit, adjunct instructor for the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy, as well as the first Accreditation Team. Ted and his wife, Georgia, have four children - Liz, a nurse in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit at Med-Star Georgetown Hospital; Brandon, a carpenter; Hunter, a junior at Leonardtown High School; and Hope, an 8th grader at Leonardtown Middle School. His family enjoys exploring our great country in their Airstream and going on the occasional motorcycle ride. Ted is excited to work with the citizens of La Plata, and looking forward to meeting all of you.

Mayor Hale School Visit



Mayor Hale discussing local government with Mrs. Stephanie Weinberg's 2nd grade class from Grace Lutheran Church and School.

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

your county property taxes and can be located on your annual county tax bill as a reduction in your overall property tax. With the inclusion of the tax differential, your effective La Plata tax rate will be \$0.185 for the next fiscal year, a figure that is truly remarkable in today's economy.

The Council also agreed to pay off one of our long-term loans that will save the Town a substantial amount of interest and fees during the remaining term of the loan and we agreed to keep sanitation rates the same and the other utilities at the prior year levels except for inflationary adjustments. I commend the Town Staff for the tremendous amount of work that was required to assemble all the financial information and data necessary for the Council work sessions and public hearings.

As many of you know, the Town of La Plata has long envisioned improving the downtown into a pedestrian friendly place that can improve the economic vitality of the downtown while preserving and enhancing the historic character of the area. Prior of the tornado of 2002, the Town published two plans: Vision Plan for Greater La Plata and The Plan for the Future of Downtown La Plata. The plans set a framework for creating a revitalized downtown that was deemed important to support our large residential neighborhoods and growing business community. The effort to turn the above

mentioned plans, and subsequent planning documents, into a reality is very much alive and is being managed by the La Plata Town Centre Corporation (LPTCC).

The LPTCC was created in 2011 and is dedicated to the mission of downtown development and redevelopment by continuing the Vision Plan goals on a specific part of the downtown. The study area is about 15 acres on the north side of Charles Street. The area is bounded to the north by the proposed Talbot Street (extended), east by the CSX Railroad tracks, south by Charles Street, and west by Washington Avenue. To further this effort, the LPTCC has retained the services of the Urban Land Institute through their Technical Assistance Panel to conduct a current review of the study area and provide a report with recommendations on how to proceed with this extremely important revitalization effort. The study was conducted in May and a report will be issued early this summer. We will keep you advised as this project moves forward.

Our Friday Night concert series commenced at the end of May. I hope to see you there over the course of the summer.

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

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Building permits issued 3/1/16-4/30/16

AT&T Agent dealer retail store – 132 Rosewick Road

6025 Radio Station Road

East Coast Construction – 107 Drury Drive

Charles County Public Works – 200 Baltimore Street

Gary Anderson Contracting – 5 Maple Avenue

DH Veirs Contracting – 6 St. Mary's Ave., Ste 102

ANS – 106 Port Tobacco Road

OBI – 13 Shining Willow Way

Paul Davis Restoration – 6035 Radio Station Drive

Best Built Barns & Shed's, Inc. – 5 Garrett Ave.

Owner – 106 St. Mary's Ave.

Crestar Construction – 234 Rosewick Road

Commercial Occupancy permits issued 3/1/16-4/30/16

The Little Corner Shoppe – 320 Charles Street

Southern Solutions, LLC IT – 101 Catalpa Drive Unit 102

Driver Improvement Professional Srv. – 101 Charles Street, Suite 302

Counseling Services, LLC – 5 N Maple Avenue, Suite 202

Avenues to Healing, LLC – 5 N Maple Avenue, Suite 206

Bollywood Masala – 200 Rosewick Road, Suite 120/122

AT&T Cell Phone – 200 Rosewick Road, Suite 132

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2, 2016

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.

Participating neighborhoods may apply for a \$200 grant to help support their NNO activities.

The deadline to submit an application is June 17, 2016. Grant applications are available on the Town's website www.townofaplata.org for download or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at cwilson@townofaplata.org or (301) 934-8421 ext. 142.

For NNO, neighbors plan barbeques, picnics, cookouts, safety fairs, and other events to celebrate their efforts to maintain safe and healthy neighborhoods. They also get organized to promote police and community partnerships, crime, drug and violence prevention, safety, and neighborhood unity.

The purpose of NNO:

- Heighten crime and drug awareness.
- Through block-by-block organizing, support anti-crime efforts such as community oriented policing and safe streets.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and unity.
- Support community police relations and cooperation.
- Send a clear message that our neighborhoods are organized and are not prey for illegal activity.

Please join with your neighbors and law enforcement in this year's event. For additional information on how your community can participate in NNO contact Sergeant William Brooks of the La Plata Police Department at wbrooks@townofaplata.org or call (301) 934-1500.

SPECIAL EVENT PARKING

Throughout the year there are many events at Town Hall. Guests often ask where the best location is to park.

For small Town events there is ample street parking in striped spaces down La Grange Avenue and side streets. For those small events the Town Hall parking lot is also open.

With larger events the Town Hall lot may be closed for vendors or activities. Please use the parking lot at Sacred Heart Church on St. Mary's Avenue, just a block west of Town Hall. When parking at Sacred Heart, please be sure to use the **back parking lot only** and leave the front and side lots available for parishioners attending services and activities at the church. The Town leases this lot from the Church for public parking.

Additional parking may be found along the north end of Maple Avenue along the railroad tracks on the north side of Charles Street. This parking is often used by those attending a show at the Port Tobacco Theater. This is just a few block walk to Town Hall.

There are a number of residences around Town Hall. Please respect the people who live nearby and not park in or block any residential lots or driveways. We ask that you not park in lots adjacent to or used by any open businesses when attending events at Town Hall. The private residences and businesses may tow your vehicle from their lot. Parking on private property is inconsiderate to them, and would not be a pleasant way to end the good time you had at a Town event.

Please do not park along any yellow painted curb, on grass, or in front of any fire hydrant. Overall, please be respectful of others.

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

Website: www.townofaplata.org

JUNE 2016

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			 <p>1 Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m. Crime March Council Meeting; 7:00 p.m.</p>			
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up (please call by 6/3 to be put on list)	Yard Waste Pick Up	Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</p>	Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p>

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council Work Session; 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 a.m.</p>	Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p>

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
 <p>Father's Day</p>	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council Business Meeting; 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</p>	Yard Waste Pick Up	U.S. Navy Band The Commodores; 7:00 p.m.	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p>

26	27	28	29	30		
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Mayor and Council Business Meeting CANCELLED Kids Show; Blue Sky Puppets; 10:00 a.m.	 <p>Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.</p>			

LA PLATA POLICE OFFICERS IN THE COMMUNITY



April was **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**: Our friends at House Boutique joined Sgt. Cunningham and Officer Fields of the La Plata Police Department to remind everyone there is No Excuse for Child Abuse.

Being a parent is a tough job and can be emotionally challenging at times, if you would like to talk to a trained counselor call the National Parent Helpline at 1-855-427-2736. Counselors are available 24-hours a day.

Left to right, Sgt. Cunningham, Audra Atkinson, owner HOUSE Boutique and Officer Ricky Fields

A QUIET CRISIS

Just under the surface of nearly every community in Maryland, opioid and heroin abuse is destroying lives. It is tearing families apart and overrunning local and state efforts to respond to what is a public health, law enforcement, and social crisis.

Dealing with the heroin epidemic in Maryland is an emergency that simply must be addressed. Consider these shocking statistics from Governor Hogan's Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force:

- In 2013, there were 464 heroin-related overdose deaths, greater than the number of homicides.
- Between 2010 and 2013, cases of heroin-related overdoses deaths increased by 95 percent.
- Preliminary data for 2014 shows that heroin-related overdose deaths are on pace to surpass those in 2013 by approximately 20 percent.
- Heroin and opioid drug dependency has more than doubled in Maryland over the last decade.
- The number of deaths in Maryland related to heroin and opioid drug dependency has increased by more than 100 percent in the last five years.
- Some parts of Maryland have the highest per capita rate of heroin and opioid drug use in the United States.
- In some regions of the state, an estimated one in ten citizens are addicted to heroin.

- The number of heroin-related emergency room visits has more than tripled in Maryland since 2010.

La Plata has not been exempt from the opioid/heroin epidemic. Several lives have been lost over the past several years due to opioid/heroin overdoses. In an effort to save lives in June 2015, Dr. Diane Abney, Charles County Health Officer, began training La Plata and Charles County officers in the deployment of Naloxone (Narcan). Narcan is a prescribed medication that reverses the effects of an opiate overdose very quickly. Since the equipping of La Plata police officers with Narcan, several overdose victims' lives have been saved.

History shows that with any national drug crisis there is always peripheral crime. In La Plata, the peripheral crime most often associated with the opioid/heroin epidemic is theft, to include theft from family member/friends, shoplifting, and from vehicles. Recently, in various neighborhoods throughout the Town, thefts from unlocked vehicles have occurred. The Police Department urges people to lock their cars and homes and report any suspicious activity. La Plata police officers are on duty around the clock, officers are always happy to come out and check on unusual activity.

To learn more about heroin and the opioid crisis, go to <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/heroin>.

To Do List

- Don't miss what is going on, post the pull out calendar on your refrigerator
- Contact Town Hall for a 95 gallon recycling container
- Be in the know, sign up to be on the Town's Constant Contact email list
- Get a second Town trash container for extra heavy trash days
- Sign up for ACH utility Payments
- Spend a Friday night on the west lawn listening to music at the Town's free concerts
- Complete the latest Snap Poll question
- Help a neighbor in need
- Attend a Town Council meeting, consult the pull out calendar for dates and time
- Plan to attend a Special Event at Town Hall
- Meet your neighbors, submit a National Night Out Mini-Grant application
- Get alerts on your water consumption
- Pick up your pet's waste when walking them on a leash
- Visit the Town's Facebook page and don't forget to Like it
- Receive Electronic Meeting Agendas
- Schedule a vacation patrol check with the Police Department
- Visit <http://www.townoflaplata.org> for more information on all of these

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.

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.*

New Smaller Wheeled Recycling Container Sizes:

The Town of La Plata has been ordering large 95 gallon recycling containers to meet demand. In response to requests, the Town has ordered a small supply of smaller size recycling containers. An

order with 65 gallon and 35 gallon wheeled recycling containers is being delivered to La Plata, and residents will be able to request one of the new sizes.



The new containers match the sizes available for trash containers in the Town, and are convenient for residents with less room to store the large 95 gallon container. If you are interested in the small or medium sized wheeled recycling container, please contact Mary Trollinger at the Public Works Department (301) 934-8421 or email mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org.

Recycling containers are now available in wheeled 95 gallon, wheeled 65 gallon, wheeled 35 gallon, and 18 gallon carry containers. The three wheeled options all come with an integrated lid.

Over 1,500 95 gallon recycling containers have been distributed in Town to date. The containers have been very well received because the wheels make it easy to move the container, the large size allows some residents who only need to put out their recycling every other week, since there is no garbage in the container. The containers also encourage more recycling and divert more material from the landfills. Diverting recyclables from the landfill saves customers money, because landfill tipping fees are lower for every ton of waste that is recycled.

You must contact the Town if you are interested in a wheeled recycling container. Due to a limited budget, wheeled recycling containers are only being ordered to meet demand. Thank you for your interest.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection



CHARLES COUNTY
**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION**

Household hazardous waste collection occurs on the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 3 pm from April through December. Upcoming 2016 collection dates are: June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1 and Dec. 3 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 is not on site.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, oil-based paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, fluorescent lights, mercury thermometers, and other poisons found in the home. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

Unacceptable materials include bio-medical waste (sharps, needles, anything with bodily fluids), latex paint, prescription drugs, and ammunition. Used motor oil, anti-freeze, propane tanks, and batteries are accepted on a regular basis at various collection sites. Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste and can be placed in your household trash as long as it is solidified. This can be accomplished by adding kitty litter, shredded paper, paint hardener, or sawdust to aid in drying it out.

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

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

If your regular trash collection day is:

Monday, July 4, 2016

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

Monday, July 4, 2016

No Pick Up

Recycling Pick Up

Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 as scheduled but may be delayed.

Special Pick Up

Monday, July 6

Monday, July 13

TOWN OF LA PLATA 2015 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2015. 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**.

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

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**.



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)**.

Important information about Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain

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.

Continued

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 7.4 pCi/l which is below the 15 pCi/l MCL.

The following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2015 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, 2015.

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed EPAs MCL	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPAs MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plants			
Fluoride Source: Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	4000 ppb	343 ppb	4000 ppb
Chromium Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel/pulp mills	100 ppb	<10 ppb	100 ppb
Barium Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries	2000 ppb	37.9 ppb	2000 ppb
Nitrate Source: Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from fertilizer, and leaching from septic tanks and sewage	10 ppm	0 ppm	10 ppm
Gross Alpha (2015 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits	15 pCi/l	7.4 pCi/l	0 pCi/l
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2015 Testing) Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits	5 pCi/l	1.0 pCi/l	N/A
Gross Beta (2010 Testing) Source: Erosion of natural deposits Notations: * 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.	50 pCi/l*	8.4 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Regulated in the Distribution			
Chlorine Water additive used to control microbes *Average result	4 ppm	1.37 ppm* (Range: 1.17 ppb to 1.63 ppb)	4 ppm
Total Coliform Typical Source of Contamination: Naturally present in the environment. * No violation for total coliform occurred during 2015. Limits are based on monthly occurrences.	1 *	1 *	0 *
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2015 Testing) Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2015 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb 60 ppb	15.1 ppb 8.6 ppb	N/A N/A
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
Lead (2014 Testing) Source: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems	15 ppb	0 ppb	0 ppb
Regulated in the Distribution			
	Action Level	Highest Level	Ideal Goal
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2014 Testing) Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2014 Testing) Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection	80 ppb 60 ppb	(Range 1.02 - 8.23 ppb) (Range 0.0 - 5.25 ppb)	n/a n/a

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.

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

Continued

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@townofaplata.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.



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.

Online Agendas

For five years the La Plata Town Council has been using handheld electronic devices to receive all of the information for their meetings. They no longer receive paper copies, and information is easily updated by Town staff. At the beginning of 2013, the Town began using online agenda management software to not only improve the development and management of information but aid in distribution to the Town Council and the public.

Prior to the agenda management program information was emailed to the Town Council, uploaded to a file sharing service, and uploaded to the Town's website. With multiple places to update, if a change was required, there was time spent changing each information source. With the agenda

management, not only is agenda and meeting development simplified, but the Town just needs to update one interface, and the Town Council and public are updated at the same time.

For the public to access the Town Council's meeting information, they may simply visit the Town's website at <http://www.townofaplata.org> and select the Community Meetings link under Quick Links on the homepage. From there residents can see a calendar of meetings, locate meeting information for the Town Council and other Boards utilizing the agenda management, and view future and past meeting information. Public documents associated with the meetings are attached to each meeting agenda for easy reference. *If you are interested in receiving notifications via email when an agenda is published you may sign up. Select the Community Meetings link, then on the Civicweb Portal scroll down to E-Updates. You can select the meeting types that interest you and when the agenda is published you will receive an email with a link to that agenda.*

Contact Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk at dmandley@townofaplata.org or (301) 934-8421 if you have any questions.

PRIOR EVENTS

The Easter Bunny hopped into Town Hall on Monday March 28th for one last visit with the children.



Celebrate LA PLATA!

Thank you to all who attended the Town's spring festival, Celebrate La Plata on Saturday, April 30th. 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.

Free fitness and health demos were provided in the Family Fitness Zone sponsored by Coal Road CrossFit and children of all ages gathered to watch the Balloon Nerd Show on the west lawn.

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, turbo tubs ride, and basket-ball toss on the east lawn.

Live music was performed by the Bucket List Band and Shortcut Sunny in front of Town Hall.

The crowd gathered on La Grange Ave at 3 pm to view the La Plata Bed Races and see who would take home first place this year. Thanks to all the teams that participated in this year's Bed Races - 301 Derby Dames, 301 Strong, Chick-fil-A La Plata, Dave's Rockin' Hog Rollers, De Lux Electric, LLC, Fearless Peerless, Greater Waldorf Jaycees, La Plata Business Association, Our Place Waldorf Soup Kitchen, Port Tobacco Players 1776, Sagepoint Senior Living Services, Sherry's Angels, and St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels.



2016 Winners

1st Place

Dave's Rockin' Hog Rollers

2nd Place

St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels

Best Decorated Bed

301 Derby Dames

Best Decorated Team

Dave's Rockin' Hog Rollers

Golden Bed Pan Award

Chick-fil-A La Plata



1st Place Team & Best Decorated Team
Dave's Rockin' Hog Rollers



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



Sherry's Angels vs. Greater Waldorf Jaycees



Our Place Waldorf Soup Kitchen vs. Port Tobacco
Players 1776

PRIOR EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)



301 Derby Dames vs De Lux Electric, LLC



Sagepoint Senior Living Services vs. Chick-fil-A La La Plata



St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels vs. La Plata Business Association



Dave's Rockin' Hog Rollers vs. 301 Strong



301 Derby Games vs. Fearless Peerless



Champion Race – Dave's Rockin' Hog Rollers vs. St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels

La Plata Farmers' Market



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

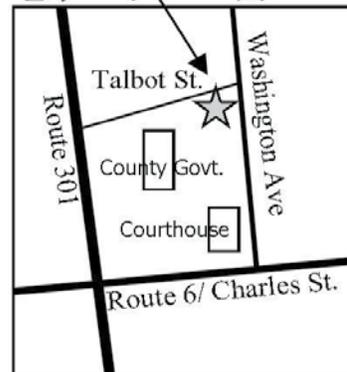
Open all year

Every Saturday 8AM to 3PM

Every Wednesday 8AM to 6PM

In the parking lot of the Charles County Courthouse, Washington Avenue in La Plata

La Plata Farmers' Market



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

www.TownofLaPlata.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Town of LaPlata 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. Concertgoers 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.



JUNE

Friday June 3rd: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Franklin Square Band – *Rock, Country, Blues, 90s Alternative & Acoustic*

Friday June 10th: 7 p.m.
U.S. Navy Band Country Current – *Country & Bluegrass*

Friday June 17th: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Three Days of Rain – *Today's hits, 80s Dance, Funk, Classic Rock & Country*

Friday June 24th: 7 p.m.
U.S. Navy Band The Commodores
Jazz

JULY

Friday July 1st: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Pork Donut – *Classic Rock 70s, 80s & 90s*

Friday July 8th: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Sara Gray Band
Top 40 Country/Classic Rock

Friday July 15th: 7 p.m.
U.S. Naval Academy Band
Electric Brigade
Pop & Rock Favorites

Friday July 22nd: 7 p.m.
U.S. Navy Band The Sea Chanters – *Traditional choral music, including sea chanteys & patriotic fare to opera, Broadway & contemporary*

Friday July 29th: 7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Dr. Robert Band
Classic Rock with an emphasis on the works of the Beatles

Please note military concerts are usually about 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes due to their regulations.

If a concert has to be cancelled due to the weather we will post the information in the following locations:

- Town of La Plata website - on the home page and concert page
- Town of La Plata face book page
- Call (301) 934-8421 for a recorded message, press #7 for special events
- Town of La Plata emails – to sign up please send your email address to cwilson@townoflaplata.org

2016 Kids' Summer Show Schedule

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.

Tuesday June 28th: 10 AM

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre

Tuesday, July 12th: 10 AM

"Books! The Magic is Real!" featuring Magician Joe Romano

Tuesday, July 26th: 10 AM

Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center Raptors Show

Tuesday, August 2nd: 10 AM

Rainbow Rock Band

Tuesday, August 18th: 10 AM

Uncle Devin Show



Crosswalks

Maryland law demands that motorists yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Remember to please drive gently, it's the Maryland Way!



WEBSITE POLL



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

The current question is:

La Plata is the preeminent place to live in Charles County. Do the events, landscaping, decorations, and cleanliness support that view?

- 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:

If the Town offered the ability to pay utility bills online, I would utilize the service.

	2008	2016
Strongly Agree	– 81%	– 88%
Somewhat Agree	– 8%	– 5%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	– 2%	– 3%
Somewhat Disagree	– 0%	– 0%
Strongly Disagree	– 6%	– 4%

This question was last asked five years ago before the Town offered the ability to pay utility bills online. When asked in February of 2001, the ability to pay utility bills online was the most requested service of the Town. At the time, the Town was upgrading its finance system to provide the capability of online payments, and testing the ability to receive credit cards, online payments, bank transfers, and automatic payments.

By the end of 2011 the Town was set up to use the expanded payment options. In the

subsequent years, customer interest in having the payment flexibility has increased a little from the already high interest.

Customer use, while increasing, is not as high as the interest expressed in the survey. In the year following availability 83.8% of customers paid by check, 6.6% by credit card, 8.8% with cash, and just 0.6% by automatic withdrawal from a bank account. For FY2015 that had changed to 72.7% of customers paying by check, 19.4% by credit card, 5.6% with cash, and just 2.1% by automatic withdrawal from a bank account.

The simplest method of payment to process for both the customer and the Town is the ACH withdrawal, yet it is the least used. It does take a little work up front to get established. Customers wanting their payment to be made automatically each quarter without them having to do anything else will need to authorize the Town to automatically withdraw their payment from their bank account. To do this they will need to complete an "Automatic ACH Withdrawal Authorization" form, which is available on the Town's website and at the Town Hall. Once the form has been completed, returned, and identification shown, the customer's payment will automatically be withdrawn from the account they designate, each quarter, typically 5 to 7 days before the due date.

Credit card payments can be made online, in-person, or over the phone using a VISA, MasterCard, or Discover.

In-person credit card payments are handled exactly the same way as they are in typical retail setting. The customer merely needs to come to the Town Hall and tell one of the cashiers they want to pay their bill using a credit card. The cashiers will swipe the card, get the customer's signature, and give them a receipt.

If a customer wants to pay their bill over the phone, they can call the Town Hall at (301) 934-8421 and inform the staff of

their desire to pay their bill using a credit card. They staff will need standard information (name on the card, credit card billing address, card type, card number, security code, etc.), process the payment, and provide the customer with an authorization code as their receipt.

To make a credit card payment on-line, the customer must first set-up an on-line account with the Town. It is a straightforward process. Customers will need to connect to the Town's on-line services portal which can be accessed directly at www.municipalonlinepayments.com/laplatamd. Once the customer has set-up their account, they can view their usage history and initiate credit card payments. If a customer chooses this option they have to initiate the payment each quarter, it will not happen automatically. Customers that opt to pay their bills using a credit card on-line will be assessed a 2.5% convenience fee to help cover the costs associated with providing this service.

All customers will still receive utility bills each quarter regardless of which payment method they choose to use.

Whether customers are interested in any of the utility payment options or not, they are still encouraged to check-out the new portal and create an account because with an account they will have on-line access to their utility usage history.

Information about this can be found on the Utility Billing page of the Town's website under the Finance Department. Please contact the Finance office at (301) 934-8421 if you have any questions.

TOWN OF LA PLATA

305 Queen Anne Street
P. O. Box 2268
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Town Notes is a publication of the Town of La Plata.



4th of July



Join us for an Independence Day
Celebration at Town Hall!
Monday, July 4th from 10:30 am to
1:30 pm

Hot dogs

Watermelon
Contests

Water slides

