

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

As many of you already know, we just held our Town elections. As your newly elected Mayor, I wanted to take a moment to thank the residents of La Plata who came out to vote on May 2 and for providing me with the chance to serve as your Mayor for the next four years. I am truly honored and humbled to have been given this opportunity. Thank you to my family, friends, and loyal supporters who so generously contributed their time and effort to my campaign during this election. Your confidence in my ability to govern our Town is much appreciated.

Also a big thank you to Congressman Steny Hoyer, Commissioner President Peter Murphy, Commissioner Ken Robinson and Commissioner Amanda Stewart for reaching out to congratulate me and offering their assistance during this transitional period. I look forward to working closely with all of them on ways to enhance our Town.

Over the past several months of campaigning and walking throughout our community, I had the great fortune to meet many of our residents and business owners and to discuss the issues that are most important to you. I will work tirelessly to address your concerns about downtown safety, traffic congestion, and ways to improve our

Continued on page 3



Mayor Hale Retires After 19 Years of Service

On April 25, 2017 members of the community, local, state and federal governments, friends, and family attended Mayor Hale's last official meeting as the Mayor of La Plata. Many citations, proclamations, gifts, and words of thanks were given to Mayor Hale on his tireless efforts to serve his community.

Students Visit Town Hall

On April 21, Mayor Hale once again had the pleasure of hosting Mrs. Weinberg's second grade class from Grace Lutheran Church and School as part of their "My Community" assignment. Students interacted in a discussion of what local government is and how it affects their families and community.



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Matthew Simpson, Ward I

I am excited to begin my term as Councilman for Ward 1. La Plata has many areas that seem to accumulate trash and debris throughout the year. While it is important for everyone to pay attention and help pickup items when you see them, often more needs to be done. I am looking to put together an ongoing, year round effort to clean up areas of the Town, in my Ward and others to help bolster our image and general appearance. If you would like to help, please contact me at my Town email address, msimpson@townofaplata.org to join in. I am pleased to be joined in this quest by Councilwoman Emily Mudd-Hendricks, and she and I hope that we will soon have an army of volunteers working with us every month as we clean our natural areas and streets to improve this place we all share together

Councilman Brent Finagin, Ward II

First and foremost, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to all those residents of the Town of La Plata who participated in the recent election. I am honored to have been selected by the citizens of our community to serve in this capacity.

I take my role as your public servant with the utmost level of seriousness and, as such, request your continued involvement and input so that we can serve your needs in the most effective and efficient manner possible. I am excited to continue my conversations with those residents and businesses with whom I have had the privilege of working with already and I encourage anyone who has not already, to reach out and share your thoughts and/or concerns.

With only two weeks under my belt in the position of Councilman, our newly elected Mayor and Council have already hit the ground running. We have maintained our diligence and sense of urgency from the campaign trail and are already working to finalize and implement solutions to many of the concerns presented to us over the past several months. I am confident these next four years will produce results that our community can be proud of.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is any way in which you think I may be of assistance to you. I look forward to seeing you at one or all of the numerous events in town this summer.

Councilwoman Emily Mudd Hendricks, Ward III

I am honored to serve as your Ward 3 Councilwoman for the next four years! The Swearing In Ceremony on May 8th was very meaningful and I would like to extend a special thanks to all those who were in attendance that evening.

The new Town Council hit the ground running with work sessions focused on finalizing the budget for 2018. I also attended my first Southern Maryland Municipal League Meeting on May 10. It was great to network with members from Leonardtown, North Beach, Indian Head, and Chesapeake Beach. The members will meet again soon when our Council represents La Plata at the Maryland Municipal League Conference in June. At the conference I will participate in a variety of workshops and begin the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance's certification program.

On Saturday May 13, I attended the first *Spring Shop La Plata*. It was nice to get out and shop local for unique gifts for Mother's Day. Later that evening I attended the one-year anniversary of *Shop 53 Tattoo* and *Art Studio* which is one of the newest businesses in Ward 3. Seeing small businesses thrive in our town is important to me and I expect to celebrate many more milestones with the business community.

In the coming weeks I plan to continue to immerse myself in fully understanding the inner workings of the town. As your Council representative for the Parks and Recreation Commission I look forward to reviewing current projects and planning for the future. There are vacancies for some of the Town's boards and commissions and I encourage residents to consider serving. I also encourage you reach out to me at emudd-hendricks@townofaplata.org should you have questions or concerns.

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward IV

Thank you to all the residents of La Plata for your support in our recent Council election. My hope is to bring about a new day in our Town and help make many needed changes while keeping the things that we love. The answer "this is the way we have always done it" will no longer be acceptable. Your new Mayor and Council pledge to listen to your ideas and concerns with respect and to consider your families' needs and safety above all else.

Code Corner

128-5 - Door-to-door salesmen.

Any vendor engaged in the sale of goods or services by soliciting orders door to door within the town and not having a fixed place of business within the town shall first secure a proper license or permit before beginning the solicitations. Such vendors may not solicit business at locations prohibited by the conditions of their license nor where the owner or resident of the property has indicated that such vendors are not desired on the premises. The license or permit for such vendors may be revoked for cause at any time by the Chief Executive Officer.

Please note that as of this article being written in the second week of May, there has never been a permit issued to a door to door salesman in La Plata. If you have ever had one come to your home, they had been conducting business without a valid permit.

If someone comes to your door without you asking them to come, you should be very cautious about their intent. While not everyone going door to door is a criminal, there are many different types of scams that are conducted in this manner. They may either be after your credit card information, be attempting to sell stolen merchandise or inferior products, they may intend physical harm, or they may be casing your home for a later burglary. It is best to be careful in circumstances of an unsolicited solicitor, you don't know what their true intentions are.

Call the La Plata Police. Chances are the solicitor does not have a valid permit. Be prepared to give a full description of the person who came to your door, what vehicle they were driving, and what direction they went. Please call for anyone in your neighborhood who appears suspicious.

While you may not be taken advantage of yourself by an unscrupulous individual, please call the Police to help protect a neighbor who may not understand they are being taken advantage of. Unfortunately, residents of La Plata have been victimized before. By calling the Police, you may be helping your neighbor avoid being harmed.

Continued on page 3

MAYOR'S CORNER
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

aging infrastructure. Our newly elected Council is energized and ready to get started on revitalizing the downtown area according to the 2001 Vision Plan. We hope to attract small, family-owned businesses to build in the heart of La Plata which will offer amenities our residents need while still maintaining the small-town charm of our community. We are already reaching out to the entities that will be able to help us achieve these goals.

One of the greatest benefits of living in a small Town is the sense of community felt when gathering at one of our many local events. Summer officially began with our annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Laying of the Wreath. We host this ceremony to remember and honor the men and women who died while serving our Country. We appreciate all who participated in this day of remembrance, especially Colonel Dan Donohue, USMC, Ret., for being our guest speaker. It truly was a beautiful commemorative tribute to our fallen heroes.

On May 26, we kicked off one of the most anticipated La Plata events - the Friday Night Summer Concert series. There is a concert scheduled every Friday at 7 pm on the Town Hall lawn until September 29th. This year we have many new bands for your enjoyment. If you haven't attended this event in the past, please make it a point to join us. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the entire family out for a free fun-filled evening.

We have many other community events scheduled in the next couple of months including a couple of new ones. Coming soon, I will be announcing the time, date and location for the first "Coffee with Mayor" event. This informal gathering will be a chance for you to ask questions and engage in frank open-discussions about community issues of importance and upcoming activities. Interacting and staying connected with you, the residents, and with the business owners is very important to me.

Art is a powerful tool that, when used properly, can engage and revitalize a community. It will not only improve a town's image but also can be instrumental in attracting visitors and other small businesses. The impressive music mural in the center of town, created by Shop 53 owner Shannon Wang, is just the beginning of our efforts to bring more art to our Town. I am very pleased to announce that we will be partnering with a La Plata gallery to transform the atrium of Town Hall into a rotating art exhibit featuring the works of local artists. We hope to open this display to the public in the next month or so.

La Plata is an amazing Town with so much potential. I encourage you to become more involved with our revitalization efforts by coming to our Council meetings and offering suggestions/comments or by volunteering to serve on one of our many committees. Our community will only grow stronger if we work together.

I truly want to hear from you. Please feel free to call my office at (301) 934-8421 or send me an e-mail at jjames@townofaplata.org.

Passing of former Councilwoman Elizabeth S. Raymond



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Councilwoman Elizabeth S. Raymond on May 18, 2017. Councilwoman Raymond was a pioneer in her own right. She was elected to our Town Council back in 1985

and went on to hold that seat for 16 years. She was instrumental in the designing and planning of the 2000 Vision Plan.

Her contributions to the Town of La Plata helped to shape us into the thriving community it is today. Councilwoman Raymond worked tirelessly for the residents and businesses of our Town and also to help to ensure the continued quality of life the residents have come to expect.

We mourn her passing and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family members and many, many friends.

COUNCIL COLUMN
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Many of you were first time voters in our Town election, as we had twice the number vote as in previous years. Issues came up during our campaign that we plan to address ASAP! Parts of our infrastructure - streets, sidewalks, pipes etc. - need immediate attention. The traffic pattern on Charles Street and Washington Avenue sidewalks have been issues since I was first elected in 2005. Our small business community is strong and growing. Let's relax restrictions and think out of the box to help them. Our hospital is vital to our community's future. Legal and medical professionals are an essential part of our Town. Planning, cooperation and coordination with our county and state partners should be paramount for our future.

Bring your family out to our Friday night concerts with our spray pad, kids zone, snack bar and ice cream truck for a true small town good time. (Colleen has scheduled different types of musical groups with everyone's favorite military bands to appeal to all tastes in music.)

Our Watermelon Bash on July 4th is my very favorite Town event! 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM gives you lots of time for barbecues and fireworks later.

Come out and shop La Plata, dine and drink in one of our excellent restaurants, visit our farmers market and attend a Town event or performance at the Port Tobacco theater to experience true small town America

TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Jeannine E. James
Council:

- Matthew Simpson Ward 1
- Brent Finagin Ward 2
- Emily Mudd Hendricks Ward 3
- Paddy Mudd 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:

Keith Goodhue

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

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.*

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.

Water or Sewer After Hours Emergency

If you have a water or sewer emergency, call (301) 932-3870 for Public Works and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert staff to respond to you.

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 in the parking lot of the Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station



CHARLES COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION

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:

Tuesday, July 4, 2017

Recycling Pick Up

Recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, July 5 as scheduled.

Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Special Pick Up

Monday, June 5, 2017
Monday, July 3, 2017

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Building permits issued 3/1/17–4/30/17

Barber Shop – 9375 Chesapeake Street,
STE 103

Little Angels – 6310 Crain Highway

Commercial Occupancy permits issued 3/1/17–4/30/17

Texas Roadhouse
103 Drury Drive

Vintage Redeux
6613 Crain Highway

Charles County Govt.
5965 Radio Station Road
Safeway Garden Center
40 Shining Willow Way
LPCC Physical Therapy Office
5 N La Plata Court
Medical office
5 N La Plata Court
Pure Bliss Wellness
5 Oak Avenue

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following day:

Tuesday, July 4, 2017
(Independence Day)

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call (301) 932-3870 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

July 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



8

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



7

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert "Four of a Kind";
7:00 p.m.

6

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert "Four of a Kind";
7:00 p.m.



5

Trash pick up for 7/4
Crime Watch Council
meeting; 7:00 pm
Recycling pick up as
scheduled



4

Town Hall Closed
No Trash Pick up
(pick up 7/5)
No Yard Waste Pick Up
4th of July Watermelon
Bash; 10:30 to 1:30
No Planning Commission
meeting - to be rescheduled



15

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

13

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert "John Luskay
Band"; 7:00 p.m.



12

Farmers
Market;
8:00 a.m. to
6:00 p.m.
Parks and
Recreation Commission
meeting; 10:00 a.m.
Design Review Board
meeting; 9:00 a.m.

11

Mayor and Council Work
Session; 7:00 p.m.
Kid's Summer Show
"Bright Star Theatre";
10:00 a.m.



22

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

20

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert "U.S. Naval
Academy Band
Superintendent's Combo
Jazz"; 7:00 p.m.

19

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

18

Mayor and Council Work
Session; 7:00 p.m.



29

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

28

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert "The Muddy
Crows"; 7 p.m.

27



26

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

25

Mayor and
Council
Business Meeting;
7:00 p.m.
Kid's Summer Show "The
Balloon Nerd Show";
10:00 a.m.

24/31

Yard Waste Pick Up
(both days)

23/30

Yard Waste Pick Up
(both days)

16

Yard Waste Pick Up

9

Yard Waste Pick Up

10

Mayor and Council Work
Session; 7:00 p.m.
Kid's Summer Show
"Bright Star Theatre";
10:00 a.m.

2

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick Up
(please call by 4:00 p.m.
6/30 to be put on list)

3

Town Hall Closed
No Trash Pick up
(pick up 7/5)
No Yard Waste Pick Up
4th of July Watermelon
Bash; 10:30 to 1:30
No Planning Commission
meeting - to be rescheduled

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 2017



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 16, 2017. 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. 4210.

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 Lieutenant Michael Payne of the La Plata Police Department at mpayne@townofaplata.org or call (301) 934-1500.

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

Comprehensive Plan Update Kick-off Meeting

The Comprehensive Plan Kick-off meeting is just around the corner; all are invited to attend. We need your input to help guide this crucial document as we look to update it to meet current and future community aspirations.

The kick-off meeting will be the first step in updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. This meeting will provide citizens and stakeholders with an overview of the Town, its planning process, and explain how they can get involved. The meeting will also give people a chance to comment on the 2009 Comprehensive Plan vision and guiding principles. The feedback received at

the Kick-off meeting will be used to frame Planning Commission work sessions and help shape where staff focuses their efforts moving forward in the outreach process. We will also ask for what you see as the top issues facing La Plata.

Final details for the kick-off meeting were not complete at the time of publication, but for the most up to date information and more information about the kick-off meeting please check the Town's Comprehensive Plan update webpage bit.ly/ToLP-CompUpdate. If you are interested in receiving updates or if you would like to participate in the Comprehensive Plan review and update process please contact the Planning Department by phone at (301) 934-8811 or by email at Jhurlbutt@townofaplata.org.

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.

Clock Hardscape

When Town Hall was constructed, a circle in front helped manage traffic in and out of the building. A decorative clock was placed in the circle which has been surrounded by landscaping. Over the years the landscaping has been a struggle to maintain. Heat from the asphalt, a limited root zone for plants, and no irrigation left plants struggling for moisture. In addition, the impact of road salt, occasional vehicle tires, and other hazards left this area as an inhospitable location for maintaining an attractive landscape.



In May, the Town's Beautification Commission completed an attractive hardscape project to enhance the area around the clock and in front of Town Hall. By adding decorative stone features, the Town has reduced the maintenance needs of this area, screened the concrete base of the clock, and provided an elevated area for plantings to establish roots and have separation from road salt.

Enjoy the addition to this community amenity. At future Town events, many will take advantage of the decorative wall for seating when the road is closed.

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:

How often do you put out your recycling container?

- Every week
- Every two weeks
- Every three weeks
- Once a month
- Never

April Website Poll Results

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

What is your favorite event at Town Hall?

	2012	2017
Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny	0%	4%
Celebrate La Plata	1%	6%
Memorial Day Ceremony	0%	2%
Friday Night Summer Concert Series	6%	41%
4th of July Watermelon Bash	1%	7%
Kids Summer Shows	0%	4%
La Plata Fall Festival	4%	9%
Harvest Halloween Party	0%	1%
Veterans' Parade	86%	18%
Old Tyme Holiday Gathering	1%	5%
Breakfast with Santa	0%	4%

La Plata is a small town, and one of the things that people like about living here is the small Town atmosphere. While Charles County is one of the fastest growing areas of the State, La Plata

works to keep events going throughout the year to help connect the people of the community to one another. Many of the Town's events like Breakfast with Santa, Harvest Halloween Party, Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny, Kids Summer Shows, and Memorial Day Ceremony are small and attract a limited number of interested people. Other events like Celebrate La Plata, the Watermelon Bash, the Fall Festival, and the Veteran's Parade draw people from outside of La Plata, and give the Town an opportunity to show its great spirit to others.

The largest event in terms of participation is easily the Veteran's Parade, where youth groups, organizations, public services, schools, service organizations, non-profits, and many others come through Town in support of our Nation's Veterans.

Throughout 2017 there are many great activities put on by the Town you can enjoy. Beginning at the end of May the Friday Night Summer Concert Series is held every Friday through the end of September on the west lawn of La Plata Town Hall. The Kids Summer Shows, the La Plata Fall Festival, the Harvest Halloween Party, the Veterans' Parade, the Old Tyme Holiday Gathering, and Breakfast with Santa are all listed in the Town's Special Events brochure.

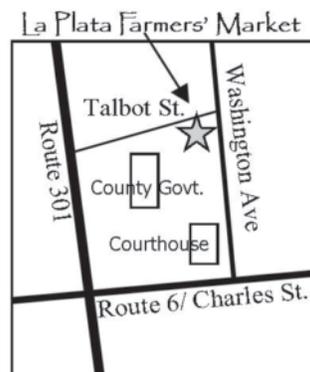
To find out more about Town events, simply visit the Events page at <http://www.townoflaplata.org>. Come out with friends and family, visit with neighbors, enjoy the entertainment, and most of all take part of what a small town has to offer its residents. All of La Plata's events are free to attend, and most have food available for purchase.

LA PLATA FARMERS'



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

Open until October 28th
 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

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Murphy Wins Maintenance Specialist of the Year Award for MRWA

Steve Murphy has worked for the Town of La Plata Public Works Department for over 44 years. Having originally started in August of 1972, his tireless efforts to help the Town are often unseen by the community, but often have a dramatic impact on our resident's quality of life. When problems happen in La Plata, Stevie helps solve the problem. He always seems to know how to find the right parts and put the right resources together to fix just about anything mechanical. All of the Public Works staff in La Plata value his expertise and want his input to improve the operation of La Plata's services.

This year at the Maryland Rural Water Association annual conference, Steve was recognized as its Maintenance Specialist of the Year. He is very deserving of the award but was very shocked when they called his name. Stevie indicated that when they were talking about the recipient of the award and they said that the awardee could take ideas



Steve Murphy (right) accepting the Maintenance Specialist of the Year Award

off of a napkin and build them quickly, he turned to his wife and said, "I do that all the time!" They called his name and he was in total shock.

Steve Murphy is always there for the Town. Whether he is fixing a water main break, a sewage pump station, or plowing snow. He is a valued asset to our community and is very deserving of this award. Please join us in congratulating Steve Murphy on this honor.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Chris Becker - Captain



The La Plata Police Department's newest member is Captain Chris Becker. He was raised in Prince George's County, Maryland, and graduated from Bowie High School. He attended Prince George's Community College and the University of Maryland, where he studied to become a teacher. He changed his career choice after taking criminal justice classes, and in 1987 was accepted as a seasonal/summer police officer with the Ocean City Police Department. He joined the Charles County Sheriff's Office later that year. He continued his studies and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, University College while employed with the Sheriff's Office.

A father of three sons, Chris has lived in Charles County for 30 years. He is active in the Knights of Columbus, the Fraternal Order of Police, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Hospice of Charles County. He also coached his sons' sports teams for many years. When he's not with his family or working, Chris enjoys running and kayaking.

Dylan Bowling



Dylan Bowling joined the Public Works Department in April 2017 as a Public Works Tech. I. Dylan was born and raised in Charles County and is a 2014 graduate of La Plata High School. In his spare time, Dylan enjoys hunting and fishing.

Conservation Corner

Cigarette Litter

Litter is a challenge for our environment and degrades our water quality. It is also unsightly and degrades the quality of our community. The most common form of litter is cigarette butts. Even though smoking in America has decreased 28% in the past ten years, cigarette butts are still the most littered item in our community. Keep America Beautiful has a specific emphasis on Cigarette Litter Prevention, and it is important to understand what you can do to help Keep La Plata Beautiful too. Cigarette butts on the ground and in our waterways are litter. If you are dropping them, you are littering. Almost two thirds of all cigarette butts become litter; it is a significant problem that creates 38% of all roadway litter.

Contrary to common perception, cigarette butts do not biodegrade. Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that stays in the environment for a long time. Discarded butts get blown and washed by rain into storm drains and waterways. Not only do the chemicals in cigarettes impair the environment, but marine animals can mistake butts for food, damaging our aquatic life.

Cigarettes accumulate in gutters, outside doorways, on sidewalks, in playgrounds, and parks. Chances are you see them every day. They simply make the La Plata community look trashy. La Plata residents have pride in their community, and should not be burdened by the impact of those who litter.

If you smoke, please plan ahead for how you will dispose of your cigarette waste. Do not throw cigarettes from your vehicle window. Please don't drop them on the sidewalk outside our stores, restaurants, businesses, or as you walk through the community. Visit the Keep America Beautiful website at <http://www.preventcigarettelitter.org> for other ideas on how you can help. Consider applying for a Beautification Grant to start a program to reduce cigarette litter. The Town of La Plata spends over \$20,000 each year on street sweeping to clean up after litterers, and that is not enough. Consider what else those funds could be used for to improve our community if littering would end. Please, Keep La Plata Beautiful.



PRIOR EVENTS



Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny

Kids enjoyed yummy ice cream sundaes from Dairy Queen and one last visit with the Easter Bunny on Monday, April 17th.



Celebrate LA PLATA!

The sun was shining for Celebrate La Plata on Saturday, April 29th. 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.

Thank you to Coal Road CrossFit for sponsoring the Family Fitness Zone and Art Smart Studio for providing the art activities for the children.

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, sand storm ride, and basketball toss on the east lawn.

Jump with Jill got the kids moving with a music-based health program that makes nutrition education rock!



The La Plata Bed Races rounded up the day with some tough competition. Thanks to all the teams

that participated in this year's Bed Races – 301 Derby Dames, Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism, Chick-fil-A La Plata, College of Southern Maryland, Dave's Flaming Road Hog Racers – Famous Dave's, La Plata Business Association, Macaroni Kid, MFEA, RE/MAX 100, New Day for La Plata, Our Place Waldorf Soup Kitchen, Sagepoint Senior Living Services, Sherry's Angels, Sky Zone Waldorf, St. Mary's-Bryantown Angels, and We Make Kids Smile Pediatric Dentistry.

2017 Bed Race Winners

1st Place

Sherry's Angels

2nd Place

Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism

Best Decorated Bed

We Make Kids Smile, Pediatric Dentistry

Best Decorated Team

Dave's Flaming Road Hog Racers – Famous Dave's

Golden Bed Pan Award

Chick-fil-A La Plata



We Make Kids Smile Pediatric Dentistry – Best Decorated Bed



Sherry's Angels – 1st Place Team



Dave's Flaming Road Hog Racers – Famous Dave's – Best Decorated Team



Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism – 2nd Place Team



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

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

JUNE

Friday May 26th: 7 PM to 9 PM
Drivin Muzzy
Country

Friday June 2nd: 7 PM to 9 PM
BackFin
Classic Hits

Friday June 9th: 7 PM to 9 PM
No Last Call
Today's hits, Pop, Country, Hip hop, & Rock

Friday June 16th: 7 PM to 9 PM
Three Days of Rain
Today's hits, 80s, Dance, Funk, Classic Rock, & Country

Friday June 23rd: 7 PM
U.S. Navy Band The Cruisers
Jazz, R&B, Rock, Contemporary & Pop

Friday June 30th: 7 PM to 9 PM
Pork Donut
Classic Rock 70s, 80s, & 90s

JULY

Friday July 7th: 7 PM to 9 PM
Four of a Kind
Classic Rock, Southern Rock, Country, Blues, & Oldies

Friday July 14th: 7 PM to 9 PM
John Luskey Band
Pop, Country, & Rock

Friday July 21st: 7 PM
U.S. Naval Academy Band
Superintendent's Combo
Jazz

Friday July 28th: 7 PM to 9 PM
The Muddy Crows
Americana/Alt Rock



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 Facebook 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.

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.

2017 SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 20 at 10 AM

Blue Sky Puppets - Rufus

Tuesday, July 11 at 10 AM

Bright Star Theatre - Alice in Wonderland

Tuesday, July 25 at 10 AM

The Balloon Nerd Show

Tuesday, August 1 at 10 AM

Ryan Buckle and The Curiosity Crew

Tuesday, August 8 at 10 AM

Science Tellers - Tall Ships & Pirates Tales



National Night Out Mini-Grant

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 1, 2017.

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 16, 2017. Grant applications are available for download on the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator, at cwilson@townoflaplata.org or (301) 934-8421 ext. 4210.

TOWN OF LA PLATA

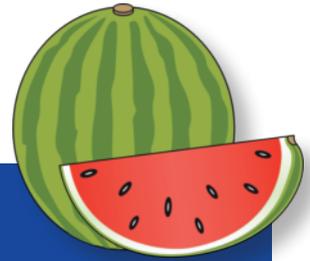
305 Queen Anne Street
P. O. Box 2268
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2268



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

4th of July

Watermelon Bash



Tuesday, July 4th
from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Celebrate the 4th of July at Town Hall. Join us for hot dogs, games, wet fun, and plenty of watermelon.

