

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

What a wonderful 4th of July Watermelon Bash celebration we had this year! This is the largest crowd to date. Despite the rather warm weather, hundreds of people came out to socialize, take part in the watermelon eating contests and games, ride the inflatable slides, and eat watermelon, hot dogs, and ice cream.

This celebration was a grand success because of all the time, talent and effort many people gave to make it happen. Under the direction and watchful eye of our Special Events Coordinator, Colleen, she made this event quite memorable. I would also like to thank the La Plata Police Department for their assistance in ensuring the safety of the participants and Fire Department for cooling down our residents.

Although you may have missed the Watermelon Bash, we still have many community-wide events planned to fill your summer.

Our Friday Night Concert series continues with some fantastic bands still yet to play. The Army, Air Force, and Navy Bands will be back as well as some new local talent. Our series will conclude this year with the U.S. Navy Band, The Commodores, on September 29th.

The Rotating Art Gallery located in our Town Hall's atrium is showcasing the works of another incredible artist. For the past several months we featured the artistic talent of a young La Plata

Continued on page 2

La Plata receives Banner Town Designation for Tenth Year in a Row!

The Banner Town designation is the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) highest member achievement award. The program is designed to encourage and reward exceptional participation in MML programs and activities and to foster teamwork among municipal officials. The program criteria consists of participating in all of the following: Visits to at least one school to encourage 4th graders to participate in the "If I Were Mayor, I would..." essay contest, have at least one representative from the Town attend four Southern Maryland Municipal Association chapter meetings, send a representative to the annual MML fall conference, and have at least one elected official participate in at least one of the following: serve on the MML Board of Directors, enrollment in the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance program or participate in the Student Shadowing Experience Program. All of the criteria must have been accomplished between June 1, 2016 and May 26, 2017. The Council has already begun working toward next year's requirements.



August is Speed Awareness Month



The Council of the Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department have declared August as *Speed Awareness Month*. August signals the end of summer with the start of another school year. The goal of Speed Awareness Month is to slow down traffic, thus saving lives. By making drivers more aware of the speed limits and encouraging them to drive within the posted limits, the citizens and visitors of the Town will have a safer August. Drivers are encouraged to always drive within the speed limit throughout the year. Please help us reach our goal; obey the speed limit.



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward IV

Your new Council has been hard at work for about three months now. After a productive learning and networking experience at Maryland Municipal League we have begun a fact finding look into our staff departments and commissions. We have requested specific discussions/reports with staff and others at each work session. This will also include community groups and developers. All are open meetings and we hope you will check our agendas for things of interest to you. For example one work session soon will include meeting with a Board of Education representative regarding the Town school seat allocation system, new residential building proposals and the crowding in our schools.

All of our work sessions – held 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays at 7PM – and our business

meetings – 4th Tuesday at 7PM – include a public forum that allows you to address the Council for 3 minutes on any subject. However, there is no discussion allowed during this forum. In the past there has been very low public attendance at our meetings.

I would propose a “Town Hall” type of session at the end of each business meeting where over coffee/cookies you would be able to discuss your concerns “for the good of the Town” with the entire Council. Would you be interested in this new way to get your concerns heard?

Our Friday night concerts and Tuesday morning children’s shows have drawn very large crowds this summer. The Watermelon Bash was the largest and best ever! Please come out and enjoy our small Town – contact me at any time at pmudd@townoflaplata.org.

MAYOR’S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

resident, Benjamin Butler. Starting in mid-July, the works of Alison Barry can be seen. Alison specializes in capturing the beauty of Southern Maryland’s landscapes as well as still life. Please make sure to stop by and enjoy her oil paintings.

National Night Out will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 1 throughout the Town’s neighborhoods. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. It’s a time to get out, greet your neighbors, and bring back a true sense of community.

The La Plata Farmers Market is in full swing. The market, which is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, is a great place to buy local fresh fruits, vegetables, home-baked goods, and home-made crafts. Shop Fresh, Shop Locally.

In addition to participating in our community events, our Council has been very busy meeting with our residents, local business owners, and investors to discuss the future and vision of our Town. We all attended the Maryland Municipal League summer conference in June where we able to discuss municipal issues and to network with other elected officials. The conference proved to be a great opportunity for us to build skills that will assist us in better serving our community.

Our Council believes that building a strong, safe community is paramount. Once again, we have partnered with the La Plata Police Department to offer a second round of Home Video Security Camera Mini Grant. The purpose of the mini-grant is to give La Plata residents an extra measure of security in and around their homes and to deter criminal activity in the town’s residential neighborhoods. There will be 20 grants awarded for up to \$250 each. The deadline to submit an application is August 18, 2017. Applications for the grant can be found on the Police Department’s section of the Town’s website, or by calling (301) 934-1500.

We live in an amazing Town. It is up to all of us to work together to preserve our small-town charm while offering the amenities of the 21st century. I encourage you to become more involved with our revitalization efforts. Together we can make our community the premier place to Shop, Dine, and Live. Please feel free to call my office at (301) 934-8421 or send me an e-mail at jjames@townoflaplata.org. Your opinion matters.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I’ll see you at the Town events.

Code Corner

Inspection and Licensing of Rental Dwellings Required

155-1 - Statement of policy.

It is declared to be the policy and intent of the Town of La Plata that all rental dwellings, dwelling units and rooming units (whether located in a bed and breakfast home, rooming house, boarding house, hotel, single dwelling or multiple dwelling), let or rented for human habitation, shall be licensed and regulated in accordance with this chapter to ensure the protection of the health, welfare, safety and morals of persons residing in those units and rooms. The provisions and requirements of this chapter are supplementary to Chapter 123, and the International National Property Maintenance Code adopted in Chapter 152, of this Code.

Whether it is an apartment building, a townhome, an entire house, or just a room in a house, it is required that the space for rent be inspected and licensed. If you are a renter, the owner of a rented property, or even if you think one of your neighbors is renting their home, it is important to be familiar with Chapter 155 of the Town Code.

The Town’s inspection program affords minimum livability standards for rented dwellings, helps protect property values, and assures spaces that are rented are adequate for habitation.

If you do not have your rental licensed, please contact the Town’s Inspections at (301) 934-8421. If you suspect a neighbor is renting a property without it being inspected, please contact the Town as well.

NEW EMPLOYEE

Robert Wyatt, *Planning Technician*



Robert Wyatt joined the Town Staff in June as a Planning Technician. He was born and raised in the Town of La Plata and is a graduate of La Plata High School and the University of Maryland, College Park. Robert is currently pursuing a Master’s Certificate in Geographic Information Systems through Pennsylvania State University. Robert was previously employed by Zipcar in Washington, DC as a Fleet coordinator. In his spare time, Robert enjoys biking, hiking and spending time with his two dogs.

LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

From the Desk of the Chief

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (MDHMH) released its 2016 Drug and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland report. The news contained in the report is shocking. Maryland experienced a 66% increase in drug and alcohol related deaths. In 2016, we lost 2,089 Marylanders to drug and alcohol. This compares to 1,259 in 2015. Eighty-Eight (88%) percent of those deaths were opioid/heroin related. In Charles County, 22 individuals died from heroin overdoses and another 10 lives were lost from prescription-related opioids.

As you can see from the MDHMH report, the opioid/heroin public health crisis is adversely touching lives throughout the state. If you don't know someone who has been touched by the opioid/heroin public health crisis, sooner or later you will. I encourage each of you to take 45 minutes and watch the video Chasing the Dragon. You can find it on YouTube or LPPD's Facebook page. The video is a sobering look at exactly how easy it is to become addicted to an opioid and how hard it is to beat the addiction.

Here in La Plata, every patrol officer has been trained and equipped to carry the opioid reversal drug Naloxone, commonly referred to as Narcan. In June, Dr. Dianna Abney, Charles County's Public Health Officer, instructed and equipped 31 La Plata residents on how to use Narcan. Narcan has been a literal lifesaver here in La Plata and throughout Maryland. If you are interested in receiving the Narcan training, please

contact the Department of Health at (301) 609-6661.

As with any drug crisis, there are peripheral crimes. In La Plata, it has been mostly limited to thefts from local businesses and thefts from unlocked motor vehicles. I encourage everyone to lock their vehicle at night and to report any suspicious individuals or noises during the overnight hours. Remember, see something – say something, LPPD officers are never more than a phone call away!

See you on the road!

Chief Carl Schinner



La Plata Police Explorers

In July, LPPD explorers joined explorers from around the DC/MD/VA area to participate in the Potomac Boundaries Advisor Association's Explorer Leadership Academy. The weeklong event focuses on team building, physical fitness, first aid, leadership, public speaking, defensive tactics, and drill & ceremony. The Explorer Leadership Academy was held at the York College in Pennsylvania.

The La Plata Police Department is proud of the young men and women of LPPD Explorer Post 1888! If you know of a youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who would enjoy being a LPPD Explorer, please contact Sergeant Jason Posey at (301) 934-1500

Home Video Security Camera Mini-Grant



The Town of La Plata is proud to offer a second round of Home Video Security Camera Mini Grant. The purpose of the mini-grant is to provide an opportunity for La Plata residents to increase security in and around their homes.

The majority of criminal events in La Plata are theft related, oftentimes from vehicles and residents yards. Citizens who receive a mini-grant must be willing to share any images captured on their video system with the La Plata Police Department during official investigations. The ultimate goal of the Home Video Security Camera Mini-Grant is to give La Plata residents an extra measure of security in and around their homes and to deter criminal activity in the town's residential neighborhoods.

The Department invites local residents to submit an application for review by the La Plata Police Department's Crime Watch Council. There will be 20 grants awarded for \$250. Deadline to submit an application is August 18, 2017. Applications for the grant can be found on the Police Department section of the Town's website, or by calling (301) 934-1500.

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@townoflaplata.or
Website: www.townoflaplata.or

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following day:

**Monday, September 4, 2017
(Labor Day)**

No Yard Waste Pick up
No special trash pick up
Trash pick up will be 9/5

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



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 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, Sept. 4, 2017

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017

Recycling:

Will be picked up on normal schedule

Yard Waste Pick Up:

There will be no Yard Waste Pick Up on Monday, Sept. 4

Special Pick Up:

Monday, August 7, 2017

Monday, September 11, 2017

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Building permits issued 5/1/17-6/30/17

Christ Church – 112 E. Charles Street
Red Oak Bistro – 6390 Crain Highway
Baldus Retail Center – 6700 Crain Highway
La Plata Shopping Center – 6643 Crain Highway
Commercial Building – 113 Howard Street
Raymond Funeral Home – 5635 Washington Ave.

Tropical Smoothie Cafe – 105 Drury Drive

Commercial Occupancy permits issued 5/1/17-6/30/17

Imaging Center
5 N La Plata Court
Ace of Fades Barbershop
9375 Chesapeake Street
Classroom
200 Howard Street
Bail Bonds
602 Charles Street

AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1



2

3

4



5

National Night Out
Kids Show; 10:00 a.m.
"Ryan Buckle and the
Curiosity Crew"

Crime Watch Council
meeting; 7:00 p.m.
Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m.
to 6:00 p.m.

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert; 7:00 p.m. "257th
Army Band, "The Band
of the Nation's Capital"

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

6

7

8



9

10

11



12

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick Up
(please call by 4:00 p.m.
8/4 to be put on list)

Mayor and Council
Work Session; 7:00 p.m.
Kids Show; 10:00 a.m.
"Science Tellers"

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

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert; 7:00 p.m.; U.S.
Air Force Band "Max
Impact"

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

13

14

15



16

17

18



19

Yard Waste Pick Up

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

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

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert ; "Eric Scott
Band"; 7:00 p.m.

Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Kent Avenue Block Party

20

21

22



23

24

25



26

Yard Waste Pick Up

Mayor and Council
Business Meeting;
7:00 p.m.

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

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert; 7:00 pm
Southern Maryland
Concert Band

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

27

28

29



30

31

Yard Waste Pick Up

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1



2

Yard Waste Pick Up

Concert; "Community Groove"; 7:00 p.m.

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

3



4

Labor Day – Town Hall closed
No Yard Waste Pick up
No special trash pick up
Trash pick up will be 9/5

First day of school for Charles County students
Trash pick up for 9/4
Planning Commission meeting; 7:00 p.m.

5



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

6

Crime Watch Council meeting; 7:00 p.m.
Recycling pick up as scheduled

7

8



9

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert "Dr. Robert Band"; 7:00 p.m.

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

10

11

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick up (please call by 4:00 p.m. on 9/8 to be put on list)

12

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



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

13

Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m.
Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; 10:00 a.m.

14

15

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert; "Three Days of Rain"; 7:00 p.m.



16

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

17

18

Yard Waste Pick Up

19

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



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

20

21

22

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



23

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

24

25

Yard Waste Pick Up

Tilghman Lake dock dedication; noon to 2:00 p.m.

26

Mayor and Council Business Meeting; 7:00 p.m.



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

27

28

29

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert; U.S. Navy Band "The Commodores"; 7:00 p.m.



30

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

WEBSITE POLL

Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townofaplata.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:

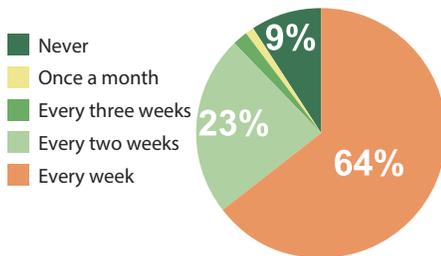
What was the last type of tree you planted?

- Evergreen
- Flowering
- Fruit
- Nut
- Ornamental
- Shade
- Other

June Website Poll Results

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

How often do you put out your recycling container?



La Plata has a lot of residents who recycle. Recycling helps to reduce the amount of material going into the landfill, which keeps the Town's sanitation rates low. Over the past few years, the Town has been offering wheeled recycling containers to aid residents

in the collection of their recyclables, and make it easier to bring out to the curb.



The largest recycling container is the 95 gallon container, which can hold a lot of material. One of the big differences between recyclables and regular household trash, is that recyclables does not contain putrescibles. Since there is not supposed to be food waste, or material that is going to rot in the recycling, it can be held for a longer period.

With trash, decomposing food, wet organic waste, and other items that attract insects or vermin; it is a good practice to dispose of the material quickly to reduce the proliferation of molds, maggots, and rotten odors. Whether you have a small amount or a lot, please put your trash out every week.

For recyclables, the materials should be dry and not covered with food waste. Since it will not be rotting in the container, you do not have to put the small amount out each week. If your container is only 1/4 or 1/3 full, you may wait until the following week until the container is full. Not picking up every household each week, can make the collection a little more efficient, for you and the handlers.

Remember to keep food wastes out of the recycling stream, and you can take fewer trips to the curb with your container. If you have not upgraded to the new covered and wheeled container, contact Mary in Public Works at mtrollinger@townofaplata.org.

TO DO LIST

- Buckle your seat belt
- Submit a Beautification Mini-Grant application by Sept 1
- Contact Town Hall for a 95, 65, or 35 gallon wheeled recycling container
- Say hello to a La Plata Public Works employee
- Set up your utility bill for automatic payment
- Help a neighbor in need
- Plan to attend a Special Event at Town Hall
- Submit a Special Event Mini-Grant application by Sept 8
- Post the pull out calendar on your refrigerator
- Sign up to be on the Town's Constant Contact email list
- Spend a Friday night on the west lawn listening to music at the Town's free concerts
- Like the Town's Facebook Page
- Pick up litter while you walk your neighborhood
- Submit a Home Security Mini-Grant application by Aug 18
- Watch a Council Business meeting on Comcast Channel 99 and Verizon Channel 11
- Visit <http://www.townofaplata.org> for more information on all of these

\$500 Beautification Grant

This is a great outlet for Home Owner Associations, school projects, scout groups, civic organizations, individuals, businesses, and other La Plata community members to do something that benefits you, the Town, and all who visit La Plata.

Grant applications will be available for download from the Town's website www.townofaplata.org, or you may get them directly from Danielle Mandley at (301) 934-8421 or dmandley@townofaplata.org. Grant applications will be reviewed by La Plata's Beautification Commission following the next application deadline, September 1, 2017 and successful projects will receive up to \$500 to help bring the idea to life. Thank you for your interest in helping our community by focusing on ways to make La Plata a better place.



"Volunteers bring beauty to life"

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.



KENT AVENUE PARTNERSHIP Third Annual Community Block Party August 19, 2017 from 10:00 to 1:00 at Caroline Drive Park



Interact with Community Leaders
Waterslide, Bounce House, School Supplies, Food Staple
Items, Vision & Other Medical Screenings, & Fun!

The Block Party is sponsored by the La Plata Police
Department and its Kent Avenue Partners

Town of La Plata
Charles County Sheriff's Office
Chick-Fil-A La Plata
La Plata Baptist Church
La Plata Lions Club
Milton Somers Middle School
Carroll La Plata Village/La Plata Grande Gardens
State's Attorney's Office for Charles County
Charles County Department of Health

La Plata Lions Club
Charles County Branch of the NAACP
Children's Aid Society
Zoe Outreach Ministries
Charles County Black Officers Association
Sacred Heart Church

Town of La Plata Public Works
Charles Regional Medical Center
Lifestyles of Maryland
College of Southern Maryland
SMECO
La Plata United Methodist Church
Loretta & Mary's Pantry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Charles County Department of Social Services

Fats, Oil and Grease Down the Drain is Costly... It Clogs the Sewers!

Sewage backups and overflows are typically the result of grease build up which can cause property damage, environmental problems, and health hazards. Referred to as FOGs; Fats, Oil, and Grease can enter into the sewer system from commercial food preparation establishments and also private residences. An article borrowed and modified from the City of Vernon, Connecticut clearly explains the hazards of FOGs and the associated costs involved.

Food preparation establishments are required by the Health Department to trap the grease and to properly dispose of it on a routine basis. Unfortunately, private residences are not required to have and maintain grease traps, but are most likely the major contributor to the grease build up in the sewers.

Most grease is a by-product of cooking and is usually found in such things as:

- Butter or Margarine • Baking Goods
- Sauces • Dairy Products • Food Scraps
- Meat Fats • Lard • Cooking Oil

All too often, fats, oils, and grease are washed into plumbing system and stick to the insides of sewer pipes both on private property and in the streets. Over time, oil and grease builds up and eventually blocks the entire pipe causing sewer backups and overflows.

Costs to YOU:

As your sewer pipes back up, sewage and food particles that accumulate can attract insects other vermin and may create a potential health hazard. Property damage can result from sewage backups leading to expensive clean up and plumbing repairs that may have to be paid by the customer or their insurance.

Costs to the ENVIRONMENT:

Clogged sewers can lead to over flows. As sewage over flows onto the streets, it enters the storm drain system...where it is then carried to local streams!

Cost to the TOWN:

Increased sewer stoppages and over flows lead to excessive and costly maintenance and could result in severe fines from the State and Federal regulatory agencies. Maintenance of FOGs in the sewer system adds to the annual cost of running the utility by clogging pipes, pumps, and drains. These costs result in increases to the customers sewer bill.

Proper Disposal Methods:

- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates,

pots, and pans, into a trash can for disposal.

- Do not put grease and scraps down the garbage disposal. Pour grease into a container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Do not pour grease into kitchen sinks, floor drains, or toilets.
- Be cautious of chemicals or additives that claim to dissolve grease. Some simply pass grease down pipes where it can clog lines further down stream.

Report Water or Sewer Emergencies to the Town of La Plata at: (301) 932-3870 – 24 hours a day.

Town Water Pressure

Approximately five years ago, the Town of La Plata installed a new water metering system. This system was the newest technology available and allowed our customers to access their account online and view their usage history. This technology also allowed the Town to read meters automatically and to shut water off remotely in case of an emergency. All of these features have been good additions to our system and have allowed us to focus more on customer service.

However, as we all find out with new technology, there can be challenges from time to time. The infrastructure built into the new meters that allow us to turn off the water in an emergency, has a very fine screen. That screen, if slightly clogged, will without warning cut down on the water pressure to the home. The Town has been experiencing an increased number of service calls for this problem.

If a resident or a business in Town is experiencing a perceived low pressure situation, please call Town Hall or Public works and schedule an appointment to service the meter. The fix is simple and does not take long. We access the little screen and blow it out with compressed air. This eliminates the problem quickly and raises the water pressure to normal levels. The nominal median water pressure in Town is 50 psi with a high pressure of 65 psi and a low of 43 psi depending on the elevation of property.

If a resident has any questions with regard to our water system please feel free to call Public Works at (301) 934-8421. We are always willing to answer any questions and work to get answers for those that we cannot answer immediately. Thank you for working with us to help our community.

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.



Lighting Audit

Recently SMECO came to the Town to conduct a lighting audit of its facilities. The audit is done to look at what changes can be made to the Town's lighting and controls to provide a more energy efficient solution, while meeting lighting needs. SMECO will help with putting together the return on investment analysis for small businesses, and can also help identify a contractor with its list of prequalified contractors. The result for La Plata will be coming soon.

For residents, there is a lot of information from SMECO available, and programs to assist in becoming more energy efficient. You can find the information on SMECO's website at <https://www.smeco.coop/save-energy-and-money>.

Some of the opportunities for residents include rebates on appliances, rebates for heating and cooling, and savings on lighting. By reducing our demand for energy, it can help reduce costs for everyone in the utility. Lower energy demand means less energy that has to be purchased at times of peak demand, which often has peak pricing which can be passed to all consumers. Please do your part to find ways to make your home and business more energy efficient.

PRIOR EVENTS

Town of La Plata Memorial Day Ceremony

The Town of La Plata held the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 29 at 10 am at Town Hall. The ceremony honored the men and women who died while in the military service. Dan Donohue, President of the General William Smallwood Chapter, Military Officers of America Association was the guest speaker at the ceremony.



The ceremony began with a blessing from Pastor Garrett Conner, La Plata Baptist Church. The La Plata High School NJROTC was on hand to present the colors and the National Anthem sung by Stephanie Boyer and accompanied by the Veteran's Home Brass. The observance also included the roll call of deceased veterans from Charles County by American Legion Post 82. Wreaths were also laid by monument at Town Hall to remember those who have served by the American Legion Post 82, General Smallwood Chapter MOAA, La Plata Town Council, and La Plata Police Department and Explorers. La Plata High School Show Troupe provided the musical entertainment for the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps and Veteran's Home Brass leading the audience in singing "God Bless America".



Photos from Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant Awardees

Hawthorne Greene – Spring Fling and Earth Celebration, April 23rd, Hawthorne Greene Clubhouse



Washington Square – Memorial Day Celebration, May 29th, Washington Square Community Center



Linden Lane – Luau, June 10th, Linden Lane



National Night Out Mini-Grant Awardees

The Town of La Plata is pleased to announce the following communities have been awarded funds to support their National Night Out events:

Hawthorne Greene • Hickory Ridge • Kings Grant • La Plata Grande Gardens I • Villages of Steeplechase • Washington Square

Thank you for making La Plata a better place for the entire community.

Town of La Plata July 4th Watermelon Bash

Thanks to all who attended the Watermelon Bash on Tuesday, July 4th. The event had a fantastic turnout! It was a fun filled day with water slides, face painting, and sweet slices of watermelon. The La Plata Volunteer Fire Department helped cool down the crowd by bringing a spray truck to the event. Special thank you to Joann Worden, Dan Merrick, volunteers from Lifestyles of Maryland and Cub Scout Pack 1799 for all their help.



Thank
you!

To all the volunteers at the Watermelon Bash on July 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Fun 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, August 1 at 10 AM

Ryan Buckle and The Curiosity Crew

Tuesday, August 8 at 10 AM

Science Tellers – Tall Ships & Pirates Tales



AUGUST

Friday August 4th: 7 PM

257th Army Band

"The Band of the Nation's Capital"

Friday August 11th: 7 PM

U.S. Air Force Band Max Impact

Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country

Friday August 18th:

7 PM to 9 PM

Eric Scott Band

Acoustic Soul/Pop

Friday August 25th:

7 PM to 9 PM

Southern Maryland Concert Band

Concert Band Favorites & Showtunes



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

SEPTEMBER

Friday September 1st:

7 PM to 9 PM

Community Groove

Funky rock, Blues originals, & covers

Friday September 8th:

7 PM to 9 PM

Dr. Robert Band

Classic Rock with an emphasis on the works of the Beatles

Friday September 15th:

7 PM to 9 PM

Three Days of Rain

Today's hits, 80s, Dance, Funk, Classic Rock & Country

Friday September 22nd:

7 PM to 9 PM

Trilogy

Rock, Pop, Dance, Hip hop, & Country Covers with a twist

Friday September 29th: 7 PM

U.S. Navy Band The Commodores
Jazz

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.

Save the Date!

La Plata Fall Festival

Sunday, October 15th: 12 PM to 3 PM



Family Fun For All! Live Music by Pork Donut, Petting Zoo, Pedal Cars, Moon bounce, Craft and Food Vendors!

12th Annual Scarecrow Festival sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of La Plata! Register to be part of the fun! Enter your Scarecrow for official judging during La Plata Town Festival, Sunday, October 15th. Winners will be announced at Town Hall. Registration deadline is Friday, September 22nd. For more information contact the Charles County Chamber of Commerce at (301) 932-6500.

Veterans' Parade

Sunday, November 5th: 1 PM



Join us to honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Salute to Veterans Parade starts at 1PM at the Courthouse on Charles Street in La Plata. Bring the kids, and come enjoy an old-fashioned, hometown parade!

Neighborhood Event Mini Grant

In this busy age where we run to work, school and extra-curricular activities, you may be home hardly long enough to see your family much less your neighbors. One great way to connect with your neighbors is by planning a block party. Apply today for the Town of La Plata Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant and receive funds to help make your block party a success!

The Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant is designed to provide an opportunity for Town of La Plata residents to strengthen their neighborhoods through producing special events.

The Town of La Plata invites neighborhood associations and communities to submit the neighborhood grant application for review. There will be 5 grants awarded up to \$500 each. Deadline to submit application is September 8, 2017. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at cwilson@townoflaplata.org or (301) 934-8421.

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.

You're Invited



Dedication for the New Floating Dock at Tilghman Lake Park

Sunday, September 24th from 12 PM—2 PM
Located at 10598 Box Elder Road off of Radio Station Rd

Fishing
Scavenger Hunt

One mile trail to walk or bike
Refreshments Provided

(Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)

For more information on the event visit www.townoflaplata.org or contact Colleen Wilson at 301-934-8421 or email at CWilson@TownofLaPlata.org