

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

**H**APPY NEW YEAR! As we enter a new year, it is not only a great time to reflect on the year that just ended, but also to look forward to what we can accomplish in 2019.

### 2018 – A YEAR OF GROWTH, ACHIEVEMENT, AND PARTNERSHIPS.

2018 was a good year for La Plata mostly because of the dedication, commitment, and compassion of our employees, residents, and civic organizations.

**Growth:** We welcomed several new businesses to Town including The Charles; Tropical Smoothie Café; Sweet Frog; Sprint; Hands of Gold Spa; B Doughnut; Cricket Wireless; and Davita Dialysis just to name a few. In addition to annexing in a couple of new parcels into the town; we also issued 35 new residential construction permits; 5 new commercial construction building permits; and 15 new commercial fit-out project permits.

**Achievements:** 2018 was also a year of many achievements.

We hired a new Town Manager, Brent Manuel, as well as a new Treasurer, Kevin Greenville. Both are a great addition to our Town and bring many years of experience and expertise with them.

After nearly 4 years of hard work and dedication, our Police Department became one of only 26 police departments their size in the entire US to earn accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement

Continued on page 2

## La Plata Police Department Participates in Shop with a Cop

On Saturday, December 1 members of the La Plata Police Department took part in the Charles County Sheriff's Office Annual Shop with a Cop. LPPD officers joined members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), Charles County Corrections Officers, CCSO civilian employees, Maryland State Police, and Maryland Transit Authority (and families of officers) as they paired up with 70 Charles County children and took them shopping at the Waldorf Walmart. LPPD officers look forward to annual community event!



Mayor James and members of the La Plata Police Department with their shopping buddies.



Lt. Payne helping his shopping buddy pick out just the right gift.



Officer Fields helping his partners wrap their gifts.



**Captain Chris Becker** has been appointed as the Chair of Hospice of Charles County.

*Hospice Care is a health care service of high quality, compassionate care that helps terminally ill loved ones and their families live as fully as possible.*



TownofLaPlata

LaPlataPD

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

Agencies (CALEA). What an accomplishment!

Under the direction and guidance of our new Market Manager, Kelly Phipps, we revamped our Farmer's Market to better accommodate the vendors and patrons. Kelly attracted new vendors, entertainers and even added kids' activities to keep them occupied so their parents could shop.

We passed a new Zoning code; resurrected and updated the Historic Preservation Commission; renovated Wills Memorial Park's building; and, purchased new exercise equipment for Tilghman Lake.

Danielle Mandley was named Municipal Clerk of the Year and Officer Phillip Thompson was recognized as La Plata Police's Officer of the Year.

Both Danielle Mandley and I were appointed to serve on the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee where our committee will consider legislation with regard to its effect on municipalities and take positions to oppose, support or amend General Assembly legislation.

Our 1ST Junior Mayor, Connor Todd, was chosen based on an outstanding essay he submitted to the "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." Contest. Junior Mayor Todd presided over a business meeting and was able to experience the workings of municipal government first hand.

We are now an affiliate member of the Main Street Maryland program. With the help and guidance of MSM, we hope to spruce up our downtown and make La Plata a destination for others to visit.

Partnerships: I am a huge believer that, "Alone We Can Do So Little, Together We Can Do So Much." In 2018 we formed partnerships with many businesses and organizations.

We partnered with the La Plata Business Association for Rocktoberfest and Shop Small Saturday. We also worked closely with them to offer our new residents a welcome packet. It contains helpful information about the Town, businesses and local services. Residents can pick up a free Informational Welcome Packet during normal business hours at Town Hall.

We have formed a strong relationship with the State Highway Administration working with them to address problematic egresses and ingresses and to address areas on our State Highways that need the most attention.

We entered into a 20-year extension/partnership with Washington Gas Light Company in November. While we

do not know when Washington Gas Light Company will be operational in La Plata, this extension offers residents and businesses the opportunity to choose their energy provider sometime in the near future.

Our Staff and the County Administrators are collaborating on many projects that directly affect our Town. Progress takes time, but we are moving in the right direction.

### 2019 – A YEAR OF ACTION AND OPTIMISM:

Here are a few projects we will be focusing on in 2019:

New Year, New Look: A new year often goes hand in hand with a new start, so we thought we would start 2019 with an updated look to our newsletter. The Town of La Plata Newsletter – "Town Notes: News from La Plata Town Hall" – will now be published quarterly. The newsletter will be filled with updates on municipal projects and issues; articles on available Town resources, upcoming events as well as other news important to our residents and local businesses. Please let us know if there is anything that you feel should be included in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Community Center: We are in the final stages of opening a small community center! We are working with a fantastic committee that consists of teachers, parents, coaches, Pastors, youth mentors, and Town Staff. The community center will offer a variety of programs geared towards Middle School aged children. It is our hope that the center will be open and operational in the next few months. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Commercial Recycling: You asked, and we listened – Businesses asked us for commercial recycling and we are happy to announce that it is now available! If your business is interested in participating in the program, please contact Mary Trollinger at 301-934-8421 or email at [mtrollinger@townofaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townofaplata.org) for more information.

Insurance for Utility Pipes: We are now offering the NLC Service Line Warranty Program to all of residents. This program gives our residents the opportunity to obtain a low-cost warranty that will provide repairs to their utility line for a low monthly fee, with no deductibles or service fees.

The work is performed by licensed, local plumbers who will call the customer usually within one hour of filing a claim. The repair is performed professionally and quickly, typically within 24 hours. USP provides a personally staffed 24/7 repair hotline for residents, 365 days a year.

Please call Town all at 301-934-8421 if you are interested in receiving more information.

Future Endeavors: There are so many wonderful opportunities and possibilities for La Plata on the horizon. We are hopeful that this is the year that we work together with the County Commissioners to find a suitable location and funding for a state-of-the-art library within our community.

We are optimistic that our partnership with the Main Street Maryland program will guide us in revitalizing Charles Street and help us get one step closer to making our downtown a walkable community.

We are encouraged that as we continue to build relationships and enter into joint ventures, we will attract more investors, businesses and residents to call La Plata their home.

Our goals may be lofty for 2019 but as Mark Twain once wrote, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

In 2019, your Town Council and Town Staff will continue to work hard to make La Plata the premiere place to dine, shop and live! We would love for you to become part of this journey. Please feel free to call my office at (301) 934- 8421 or send me an e-mail at [jjames@townofaplata.org](mailto:jjames@townofaplata.org) with any questions, suggestions or concerns. Your opinion matters!

### Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019  
(New Year's)**

No Trash pick up (pick up 1/02/19)  
No Yard Waste pick up

**Monday, January 21, 2019  
(Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)**

No Trash pick up (pick up 1/21/19)  
No Yard Waste pick up

**Monday, February 18, 2019  
(President's Day)**

No Trash pick up (pick up 2/19/19)  
No Yard Waste pick up

## Councilman Matthew Simpson, Ward I

Change is constant. Change is needed to survive. Evolution is the process by which all municipalities survive the coming storms. It does not mean that we toss out the old, but it does mean we welcome the new. La Plata will never again look as it did 10, 20 or even 30 years ago. This is not a bad thing, it means La Plata will be here for another 100 or more years. I understand that development and annexations concern everyone. I am asking that you trust the Town Staff and your elected Council to make the right choices for La Plata, even if you do not agree with them. This County, region and Town will never stop growing. With that in mind, come and talk to us about where we need to move forward from where we are. It will not be easy, but it will be the better future our Town deserves. Keeping taxes low has been a priority, and we need to constantly grow to ensure that remains the case. Please, come and speak with your Council and Staff so that we can show you there is a plan, and now more than ever, is our time, our Town.

## Councilwoman Emily Mudd Hendricks, Ward III

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and the related town activities. Last year was a busy year for the council, but also for town employees with changes in leadership, increased service needs, and challenges related to weather conditions. I want to personally thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the town.

As for moving forward in 2019, one potential project that will affect Ward 3 is the paving of Patuxent Court. The introduction of the ordinance and public hearing will be scheduled for early 2019 (dates pending, please check the Town's website). Please note that council work sessions are usually held on Mondays at 6:00 pm and business meetings are at 7:00 pm.

The Parks and Recreation commission will meet in January to plan park related activities for 2019. If you have suggestions for ways to improve the parks within the town of La Plata please feel free to reach out to me with your suggestions.

I look forward to serving La Plata in 2019 and wish you a prosperous new year!

## Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward IV

Allow me to reminisce with a walk through downtown La Plata over the years before I ask how YOU would like to see our Town in the future. As a young mother in the late '70s I would walk most days with 2 kids in the stroller and the older 3 to Grace Lutheran, Walter J. Mitchell elementary and La Plata High School. We always stopped at the soda fountain at County Drug where Martha served yummy shakes and sandwiches. Also owner-pharmacist Hank Lawlor was always available day or night for emergency medical needs. Then on to the library with children's stories downstairs each week. Yes, in exactly the same room as today! There was always a stroll through PS Bowlings' Ben Franklin for treasures galore. Then perhaps a stop at Poseys Hardware or Mitchell Supply for home repair needs. Always a walk by Martins just to say hello and then IGA (later Poseys) for grocery items and candy. A photographer also came and set up in the stockroom a few times for children's photos which I still cherish today. The A&P, though in walking distance, usually required a car ride simply because we bought in volume for a family of 7. My son, John, worked there as a cashier in the late '80s as his Dad had in the '40s!

Growth is inevitable! We have grown to a Town of about 9,000 residents. The annexations now in place will grow La Plata to 25,000. What do YOU want to see our Town become in the present and most importantly in the future? The following is a brief description of my own ideas.

1. Charles Street and the Avenues (Washington, LaGrange, St. Marys, Oak, Kent, & Maple) feeding into it must become residential streets once again with sidewalks and a 25 mph speed limit within the Town limits. Another traffic study is

in the works - BUT I am aware of at least 2 before this that remained studies with NO action. Talbot Street must be extended through to Kent Ave to provide a bypass of the Town along with Rosewick Road and Hawthorne Green Parkway.

2. The new library site should be on Talbot Street with easy walking access to the entire downtown area but also access to Rt. 301 and plenty of parking. The library should be a community center with meeting rooms, etc., much like Waldorf West Library.
3. We are a Main Street Maryland Affiliate member. This is a Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development program associated with the National Main Street Program. We need to use the resources available through this program and also the La Plata Business Association to initiate a comprehensive program for our downtown revitalization and streetscape.
4. I know this will stir some controversy - but I would like to see more population density in the form of apartments and town houses, i.e. Edelen Station, for young professionals, teachers, firefighters, etc. interspersed with small businesses, a coffee/lunch shop, more restaurants and a Town square or park.
5. A historical and arts district composed of the Port Tobacco Theater, our Train Station Museum and the Southern Maryland Carousel would also be located near or within the Town park.

These are my ideas that have been refined over the last 2 years as the new council and staff have been in place. We would love to hear from you. Please come out to our meetings. There is a public forum at each one. Also consider joining one of our commissions. Wishing all of you a Happy and Blessed New Year!

## Planning Department FAQ

The Planning Department remains committed to providing the best customer service and ensuring that the needs of the public are met. As a part of this continuing effort, we are pleased to present a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guides. These guides cover a wide variety of commonly asked questions regarding the Town's permitting and planning processes. Examples include sheds, fences, Design Review Board and signage.

FAQ guides will be available at the Town Hall and on the Town's website. As always, the Planning Department is available to assist with any additional questions or concerns you may have at (301) 934-8811.

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

January 1 is the start of a new year, however, for the Town of La Plata January 1 also quietly marks another important anniversary. On that day in 1873 the first scheduled passenger train running from Baltimore to Popes Creek travelled through the growing young town. The event marked the culmination of an effort begun decades earlier by the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad to connect the port facilities of Baltimore with a transportation network that included ferry terminals intended to ultimately link with the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. The ambitious plans and their ulterior motives were put on hold when the Civil War began, but quickly resumed at the war's end.

The prosperity of many rural areas would be decided by rail barons and transportation tycoons jockeying for control of the lucrative Washington, D. C. market during railroad's golden age. Hoping to establish a Baltimore to Washington route but forbidden direct access to Washington by existing agreements with competing rail lines, the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad sought to exploit a loophole permitting the construction of limited distance branch lines off of main railway lines. They planned the Baltimore



to Popes Creek line as the main railway and then connected it to a branch running from Bowie to Washington. The Bowie to Washington "branch" was the real goal. It was so important that it opened for business 6 months before the so-called main line to Popes Creek was ready.

Construction of the railway assured La Plata's success. A train station, hotel, warehouse facilities and several businesses quickly appeared near the tracks and were ready for business when the first passengers stepped off the train. Shipments of freight and farm produce from the region no longer depended on ox carts and barges. For the next 76 years rail service along the Popes Creek line would bring passengers, goods and growth to La Plata and other fledgling

communities along the way. The towns of Odenton and Bowie owe their names to the president of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad at the time, Oden Bowie.

Over the years the railway through La Plata reflected the rise and fall of the national railroad industry. Chartered as the Baltimore & Potomac Railway, it was consolidated with the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad in 1902. By 1907 the line was part of the Pennsylvania Railroad and stayed under that name long after passenger service on the Popes Creek line had ended. Declining ridership and increased competition from air, automotive and truck transporta-



tion forced many mergers, consolidations and bankruptcies for America's railway companies. Rural stations once served by these lines were left abandoned and many were lost to history.

The Pennsylvania merged with the New York Central to form PennCentral in 1968. PennCentral's bankruptcy in 1970 led to the formation of Conrail in 1976. In 1999 Conrail was split up with part of it joining CSX, which runs the line today exclusively for freight. Suddenly obsolete, the building that once symbolized La Plata's rise was abandoned and faced an uncertain future.



The fate of La Plata's train station, which is the last surviving passenger station on the Pope's Creek line, remains an important issue for the town's Historic Preservation Commission. The station has not been used for regular passenger service since October 1949 and has seen sporadic use as a visitor's center, meeting place, and museum in recent years. Efforts are now underway to reopen the building for tourism by April 2019 with a long term goal of establishing a museum on the premises.

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Occupancy permits issued 9/21/2018-10/15/2018

Proposed medical office  
103 Centennial Street

Axios Behavioral Health  
1 St. Mary's Avenue

Psychotherapy office  
109 La Grange Avenue

Assembly/restaurant  
The Charles  
417 Charles Street

Insurance Agency  
114 La Grange Avenue

Used Vehicle Dealership  
6600 Crain Highway

## 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: Brent Manuel  
Treasurer: Kevin Greenville  
Assistant Town Manager:  
Michelle D. Miner  
Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley  
Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner  
Director of Planning: Vacant

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.  
Director of Public Works:  
Jeffrey S. Garner

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.org  
Website: www.townoflaplata.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 Charles County 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:

Tuesday January 1, 2019  
Monday, January 21, 2019  
Monday, February 18, 2019

### Trash will be picked up on:

Wednesday, January 2, 2019  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

### Recycling Collection:

Recycling for Wednesday, January 2, 2019 will be picked up on Thursday, Jan. 3  
Recycling for Wednesday, January 23, 2019 will be picked up as scheduled  
Recycling for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 will be picked up as scheduled

### Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on:  
Monday, January 21, 2019 and Monday, February 18, 2019

### Tree Pick Up:

Wednesday, December 26, 2018 until Friday, January 11, 2019

### Special Pick Up:

Monday, January 7, 2019  
Monday, February 4, 2019  
Monday, March 4, 2019

## Commercial Recycling

Many of our La Plata businesses have asked for commercial recycling and now we are happy to announce that the Town of La Plata now provides recycling to our commercial customers.



Applications are available on the Town's web site at [https://townoflaplata.org/.../Commercial\\_Recycling\\_Application...](https://townoflaplata.org/.../Commercial_Recycling_Application...) Locations will be inspected to determine that there is reasonable access.

Please contact Mary Trollinger at 301-934-8421 or email at [mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org](mailto:mtrollinger@townoflaplata.org) with any inquiries.

## From the Desk of the Chief

In October 2016, the Maryland General Assembly adopted House Bill 1016, in an effort to enhance law enforcement services and public safety. The bill required the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to establish a reporting system and evaluate the community policing programs of every law enforcement agency in Maryland. Moreover, MPTSC's subject matter experts on community policing were charged with providing feedback to every Maryland law enforcement agency on how to enhance and/or improve its community policing programs.

Community policing is "a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to those problems." (U.S. Dept. of Justice-COPS Office, rev. 2014)

Community policing encompasses a variety of philosophical and practical approaches. Community policing strategies vary depending on the needs and responses of the communities involved; however, certain basic principles and considerations are common to all community policing efforts. Community policing consists of two complementary core components, community partnership and problem solving. To develop community partnership, police must develop positive relationships with the community, must involve the community in the quest for better crime control, and must pool their resources with those of the community to address the most urgent concerns of community members. Problem solving is the process through which specific community concerns are identified and the most appropriate remedies to address these problems are found.

Effective community policing depends on optimizing positive contact between patrol officers and community members. Establishing and maintaining mutual trust is the central goal of community partnership. Community partnership means adopting a policing perspective that exceeds the standard law enforcement emphasis. This broadened outlook recognizes the value of activities that contribute to the orderliness and well-being of a neighborhood. These community-based activities help develop trust between the police and the community. Building trust is essential for an effective community partnership, and requires that police must treat people with respect. Police and the community must collaborate and work closely together.

Determining the underlying causes of crime depends, to an extent, on an in-depth knowledge of community. Therefore, community participation in identifying and setting priorities will contribute to effective problem solving efforts by the community and police. Cooperative problem solving also reinforces trust, facilitates the exchange of information, and leads to the identification of other areas that could benefit from the mutual attention of the police and the community. For this process to operate effectively, the police must recognize the validity of community concerns. Once informed of community concerns, the police must work with citizens to address them while at the same time encouraging citizens to assist in problem solving measures.

Community policing allows solutions to be tailor-made to the specific concerns of each community. The best solutions are those that satisfy community members, improve safety, diminish anxiety, lead to increased order, strengthen the ties between the community and police, and minimize coercive actions.

In an effort to guide Maryland's law enforcement agencies, MPTSC developed ten guiding principles every agency is required to incorpo-

rate in its community policing programs. These guiding principles are as follows:

1. Crime Prevention is the responsibility of the total community.
2. The police and community share ownership, responsibility, and accountability for the prevention for crime.
3. Police effectiveness is a function of crime control, crime prevention, problem solving, community satisfaction, quality of life, and community engagement.
4. Mutual trust between the police and the community is essential for effective policing.
5. Crime prevention must be a flexible, long-term strategy in which the police and community collectively commit to resolving the complex and chronic causes of crime.
6. Community policing requires the knowledge, access, and mobilization of community resources.
7. Community Policing can only succeed when top management, police and government officials enthusiastically support its principles and tenets.
8. Community policing depends on decentralized, community-based participation in decision making.
9. Community policing allocates resources and services based on analysis, identification, and projection of patterns and trends, rather than incidents.
10. Community policing requires an investment in training with special attention to problem analysis and problem solving, facilitation, community organization, communication, mediation and conflict resolution, resource identification and use, networking and linkages, and cross-cultural competency.

In November, the La Plata Police Department (LPPD) received its community policing programs evaluation from MPTSC. LPPD was found "to be in compliance with the directive of the Commission and the ideology of Community Policing given the size and scope of your agency and the demographics of the town of La Plata, Maryland."

The report went on to state, "The details provided for the community oriented programs, services, and initiatives of your agency, encompass all ten "Guiding Principles" and involves all levels of the agency from the Chief to the patrol officers."

The agency's full report can be found on its webpage under community policing.

*See you on the road!*  
Chief Carl Schinner

## Council Business Meeting TV Schedule

Council Business meetings are broadcast on Comcast Channel 99 and Verizon Channel 11 (CCCTV). Tuesdays at 9 PM, Fridays at 8 PM and Saturdays at 10 AM.



# JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



6

Yard Waste Pick up  
Special Pick up, please  
call by 1/4

Town Council Work  
Session; 6:00 pm

7

New Year's Day  
Town Hall Closed  
No Yard Waste Pick up  
No Trash Pick up  
(Pick Up 1/2)

Crime Watch Council  
Meeting; 7:00 pm

8

9

Parks and Recreation  
Commission Meeting;  
7:30 am

Design Review Board  
Meeting; 9:00 am

10

Yard Waste  
Pick up

Last day of Christmas  
tree Pick up  
Beautification  
Commission  
Meeting; 9:30 am

11



12

13

Yard Waste Pick up

Town Council Work  
Session; 6:00 pm

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day

No Yard Waste  
Pick up

No trash  
Pick up,  
Pick up 1/22



21

22

23

24

25

26

Trash Pick up from 1/21

Recycling Pick up

Yard Waste Pick up

27

Yard Waste Pick up

Town Council Business  
Meeting; 7:00 pm

28

29

30

31

# FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

*The following is a list of the Town's snow emergency routes:*

Agricopia Drive  
Bath Drive  
Clarks Run Road  
Cornwall Drive  
East Patuxent Drive  
Rescue Circle

Garrett Avenue  
Hawthorne Drive  
(between Rr. 301 and  
Washington Avenue)  
Heritage Green  
Parkway  
Hickory Circle

Hickory Lane  
Kent Avenue  
La Grange Avenue  
Llano Drive  
Magnolia Drive  
Norfolk Drive

Oak Avenue  
Oriole Lane  
Qualwood Parkway  
Queen Anne Street  
Redwood Circle  
Savanna Drive

Shining Willow Way  
(between Rt. 301 and  
Washington Avenue)  
Somerset Street  
St. Mary's Avenue  
Suffolk Drive  
Wales Drive

Wicomico Street  
Willow Lane

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Yard Waste Pick up  
Special Pick up,  
please call by 2/1

Planning Commission  
Meeting: 7:00 pm

Yard Waste  
Pick up  
Beautification  
Commission  
Meeting: 9:30 am



10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Yard Waste Pick up  
Town Council Work  
Session: 6:00 pm

Crime Watch Council  
Meeting: 7:00 pm

Parks and  
Recreation Commission  
Meeting: 7:30 am  
Design Review Board  
Meeting: 9:00 am



Yard Waste Pick up

17

18

19

20

21

22

23



President's Day  
No Yard Waste Pick up  
No Trash Pick up,  
Pick up 2/19

Trash Pick up for 2/18  
Town Council Work  
Session: 6:00 pm

Recycling Pick up

Yard Waste Pick up

24

25

26

27

28

Yard Waste Pick up  
Town Council Business  
Meeting: 7:00 pm

**Best Management Practices for Ice Control**

- Avoid use of salt by clearing walkways of snow before it turns to ice.
- Only use salt and deicers when a storm is imminent. Sweep up any unused material, store, and reuse.
- Reduce salt and other chemicals by adding sand for traction.
- Store salt and other products on an impervious surface to prevent ground contamination and in a dry, covered area to prevent stormwater runoff.



# 2019 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

## Council of the Town of La Plata 2019 Meeting Schedule

Work Sessions are scheduled for 6:00 PM and Business Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 PM, unless otherwise stated.  
Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

### JANUARY – Alternate Schedule

Work Sessions	Monday, January 7, 2019 Monday, January 14, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, January 28, 2019

### MARCH

Work Sessions	Monday, March 11, 2019 Monday, March 18, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, March 25, 2019

### MAY – Alternate Schedule

Work Sessions	Monday, May 13, 2019 Monday, May 20, 2019
Business Meeting	Tuesday, May 28, 2019

### JULY

Work Sessions	Monday, July 8, 2019 Monday, July 15, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, July 22, 2019

### SEPTEMBER

Work Sessions	Monday, September 9, 2019 Monday, September 16, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, September 23, 2019

### NOVEMBER – Alternate Schedule

Work Sessions	Tuesday, November 12, 2019 Monday, November 18, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, November 25, 2019

### FEBRUARY – Alternate Schedule

Work Sessions	Monday, February 11, 2019 Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, February 25, 2019

### APRIL

Work Sessions	Monday, April 8, 2019 Monday, April 15, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, April 22, 2019

### JUNE – Alternate Schedule

Work Session	Monday, June 10, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, June 17, 2019
MML Conference	June 23 to June 26, 2019

### AUGUST

Work Sessions	Monday, August 12, 2019 Monday, August 19, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, August 26, 2019

### OCTOBER

Work Sessions	Monday, October 14, 2019 Monday, October 21, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, October 28, 2019

### DECEMBER – Alternate Schedule

Work Sessions	Monday, December 9, 2019 Monday, December 16, 2019
Business Meeting	Monday, December 16, 2019

Work Sessions are the second and third Monday of each month and Business Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month, unless rescheduled or cancelled. Special Meetings and Closed Sessions may be scheduled as needed. When a meeting would fall on a scheduled holiday an alternate schedule has been adopted.

Agendas are published online and can be viewed on the Town's Civic Web portal at <https://laplata.civicweb.net/Portal/>, and are subject to change. Printed copies are available upon request, by contacting the Town Clerk, Danielle Mandley via phone as listed below or email at [dmandley@townofaplata.org](mailto:dmandley@townofaplata.org).

## Planning Commission News – Comprehensive Plan Update

The Planning Department and the Planning Commission for the Town of La Plata are in the process of updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. A kick-off meeting was held on June 2, 2018 in order to provide citizens and stakeholders with an overview of the Town's Comprehensive planning process. Listening sessions were held on the Municipal Growth Element, Downtown Element, Transportation Element and Economic Development Element. If you missed any of the previous meetings, please visit the Town's Comprehensive Plan webpage at [bit.ly/ToLPCompUpdate](http://bit.ly/ToLPCompUpdate) where you can review the meeting results and participate in all of the activities.

The Town of La Plata is currently inviting proposals for professional consulting services to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan. To review the Request for Proposals (RFP) please use the following link; <http://bit.ly/CompPlanRFP>.

A pre-submittal meeting will be held on December 21, 2018 at 10:00 am at the La Plata Town Hall in order to answer questions and provide additional information. Anyone planning to submit a proposal must notify the Planning Department Staff to be added to the communication list for updates on questions and answers. The last day for questions is January 4, 2019, before 4:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time). Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time) on January 15, 2019.

Inquires shall be made and proposals submitted to: Jeanine Harrington, AICP  
Town of La Plata Planning Department  
305 Queen Anne Street, P.O. Box 2268  
La Plata, Maryland 20646  
(301) 934-8811 • [jharrington@townofaplata.org](mailto:jharrington@townofaplata.org)

## Utility Bill Payment Options

The Town offers its utility customers multiple ways to pay their quarterly bills.

- Customers can pay in person at Town Hall during normal business hours (9 am to 4 pm M-F). In-person payments can be made using cash, check, money-order or credit card (VISA, MasterCard or Discover).
- Customers also have the option of making payments at Town Hall outside of normal business hours by placing their payment in an envelope and dropping it in the night deposit slot located in the lobby of the building. We recommend payments made via the night deposit box be in the form of a check or money order (cash is not recommended).
- Customers may also make their payments by mail. We recommend that all payments made by mail be in the form of a check or money order (cash is not recommended).
- NOTE: If you use a "Bill Pay" service offered by a financial institution to make your payment, you need to be aware that payments made using these services ultimately come to the Town as paper checks generated by a third-party payment processing company. Your bank account will typically show the payment having been withdrawn from your account several days prior to us receiving the check and despite the fact that the money is no longer in your account, we do not credit your payment to

your account until we receive and process the check itself. If you use one of these service you need to make sure to schedule the payment enough in advance of the due date to assure that the check arrives on time, not merely that the money has been withdrawn from your account by the due date.

- Customers can also authorize the Town to automatically withdraw their payment from their bank account each quarter. To do this they must complete an "Automatic ACH Withdrawal Authorization" form, which is available on the Town's website and at the Town Hall. They must complete the form and return it, along with a copy of blank voided check to the Town. All authorized signers on the account must appear in person at the Town Hall and present identification to Town staff. Once these conditions have been satisfied, the Town will set up the customer's payment so it will automatically be withdrawn from the account they designate, each quarter, typically 2 or 3 days before the due date.
- Customers may also pay their bill remotely (phone or on-line) using a credit card
- If a customer wants to pay their bill by phone, they can call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421 and inform the staff of their desire to pay their bill using a credit card. The staff will need standard information (name on the card, credit card billing address, card type, card number, security code, etc.). Once they have all of the required information they'll 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 simple and straight forward process. Customers will need to connect to the Town's on-line services portal which can be accessed directly at [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/laplatamd](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/laplatamd) or from the link on the Town's website [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org). Once the customer has set-up their account, they can initiate a credit card payment. If a customer chooses this option, they must initiate the payment each quarter as it will not happen automatically. There is a surcharge fee equal to 2.5% of the payment that is assessed when this method of payment is used.

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

Even if a customer does not want to pay on-line, we still recommend they set up an account at [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/laplatamd](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/laplatamd). Through the online portal, customers can view their transaction history, address info, account info, and bills.

Please contact the Finance office at (301) 934-8421 if you have any questions.

## Water Meter Customer Portal

Water customers can access information about their water use online. With the Town's Automated Metering Infrastructure system (AMI), the Town reads water meters automatically and gathers data about water consumption to help track down leaks. The Town currently monitors the water system for long leaks, where water runs through a meter for 96 straight hours. The system can send out email alerts about abnormal consumption or potential leaks based on defined parameters.

Customers may access the customer portal that allows viewing of individual meter consumption data online and also receive email alerts. Each customer is able to see their hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly consumption data on a 24 hour delayed basis. Each meter transmits use data to the network overnight from the previous period. This information helps customers manage their water usage and help with water conservation practices.

If you are interested in accessing the customer portal, please call Town Hall at (301) 934-8421. Town staff will help you set up your account and have the system issue a user name and password. It will be necessary to have online access and be able to receive email to set up the account. A customer having direct access to their consumption information helps them to manage use, and potentially catch leaks in the home sooner.

## Protecting our Sewer System

The best way to protect your sewer system or on-site septic tank system from clogs and costly repairs is to make sure you don't use your toilet as a trash can. The only safe, nonhuman material to flush down the toilet is toilet paper because it is dispersible, meaning that it falls apart when moved around in water.

Disposable wet wipes, a product once used mainly for wiping baby bottoms, are increasingly being used in a much larger adult market. Although many of the wipes are labeled as "flushable," the problems that adult wet wipes have created for municipal sewer systems are serious. When the wipes enter the sewers, they clog the lines and sewage pumps at the wastewater utility plants. In communities with old, smaller pipes, the wipes build up and cause blockages as soon as they enter the sewer system, resulting in costly repairs. Wet wipes can also clog home septic systems by clumping into masses that can block the line to the tank or block the tank inlet and cause back-ups of sewage into basements.

The biggest problem with the wipes is that they are "nondispersible," which means they will not break apart as soon as the toilet is flushed and completely break up within five minutes, like toilet paper does. These products are made of nonwoven fabrics manufactured by entangling fibers in a sheet or web structure and bonding them mechanically, chemically or thermally. The fibers are not knitted or woven as conventional fabrics are. This makes them very durable, and that is great for many other uses, but not good for flushing down the toilet.

Your toilet may seem like a convenient way to get rid of certain unwanted items — you flush it and they disappear. However, toilets are only intended to get rid of human waste and toilet paper. Everything else you might be tempted to flush should usually be bagged and disposed of with your regular garbage.

*Reprinted with permission of: Sandy Barbic an education specialist at Summit Soil and Conservation District.*



# PRIOR EVENTS

## FALL FESTIVAL

Fall was in the air on Sunday October 14th! The annual Fall Festival was a fun filled day for the community. Thanks to all the vendors who participated and Funkzilla for keeping the crowd entertained.

The announcement of the 13th Annual Festival of Scarecrow winners wrapped up the event – thanks to all the businesses and organizations that participated.

### 13th Annual Scarecrow Festival Winners (sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of La Plata)

#### Career:

3rd place – Maryland Partners Bank and your Scarecrow Major Event Sponsor!

2nd place – Baldus Real Estate

1st place – Southern Maryland Foot and Ankle

#### Sports:

2nd place – Potomac Early Learning Center

1st place – Grace Lutheran Church and School and one of your Scarecrow sponsors!

#### Scary:

3rd place – State Farm Greg Conklin Insurance

2nd place – Old Line Bank

1st place – De Lux Electric #2 by the post office entrance and one of your Scarecrow sponsors!

#### Fictional Characters:

3rd place – La Plata Beautification Commission

2nd place – Manpower/Waldorf

1st place – Askey, Askey & Associates

#### Charles County Proud:

1st place – Mudd, Mudd & Fitzgerald

The People's Choice Award goes to Grace Lutheran Church & School.



No tricks just treats were handed out at the Harvest Halloween Party on Friday, October 19th.



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# Town of La Plata "Salute to Veterans" Parade

Thank you to all the parade participants especially the Veterans and service members who marched on Sunday, November 4th.



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## Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering on Sunday, December 2nd helped kick off the holiday season at Town Hall. Thank you to the Clark Senior Center, Southern Mix Barbershop Chorus and La Plata High School String Orchestra for providing the holiday music. Children enjoyed crafts by AR Workshop, Hold That Pose Photo Booth and balloons from the Balloon Nerd. The event ended with a special visit from Santa who the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department delivered to Town Hall. Thank you to all who volunteered and attended the event!

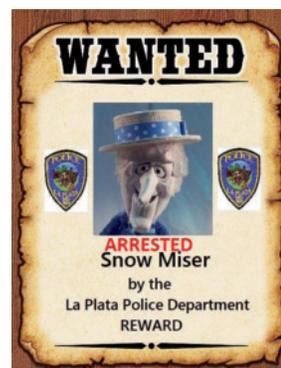


## Breakfast with Santa

Santa stopped by Town Hall on Saturday, December 8th to enjoy breakfast with the children. Special thanks to Joann Worden and the La Plata Key Club students for volunteering at the event.



## Shop Small Saturday



During Shop Small Saturday held on November 24, 2018 the LPPD along with its partners at the La Plata Business Association hosted a Find the Holiday Super Villain Scavenger Hunt. Young detectives from around the area came to La Plata to be deputized and then headed out on an adventure to locate one of the villains who could be found hanging around inside a local business. Because of our young sleuths help, La Plata remains a safe place to live, work, shop, and visit.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant

Time to start thinking about a way to get all your neighbors together for some fun – throw a block party, health fair or neighborhood cleanup. Apply for the Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant today.

Town of La Plata 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 March 8, 2019. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org) or 301-934-8421. The Town will offer a grant opportunity specifically for National Night Out events in May.

### It's time to race!



Grab some teammates and sign up for the Town of La Plata Bed Races. Bed Races take place on Saturday, April 27th at 3 pm as part of the Celebrate La Plata event. Your team will race on La Grange Ave. as the crowd cheers you on.

It's easy to participate – no registration fee and the Town has beds that can be used for the races.

Get your creative juices flowing and make your own team bed! Each team must have four participants that are 16 years or older. Don't miss out on the chance to come dressed in team t-shirts or costumes to promote your business or organization. The annual bed race is a great way to do some marketing while having a lot of fun. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams and best team attire.

Registration deadline is April 12. For more information or to register for the Bed Races, contact Colleen Wilson at 301-934-8421 or [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org). Participation form is available on the Town's website [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org).

*Fill out the interest form below to receive more information.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teammate 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Teammate 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Teammate 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

- We are interested in racing our own bed.
- We are interested in using a Town bed.

*(Town beds will be shared among teams so only decorations that can be quickly and easily removed will be allowed.)*

**Please return the form to:** Town of La Plata  
Colleen Wilson,  
Special Events Coordinator  
PO Box 2268, La Plata, MD 20646

Or email the information to [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org).

## Upcoming Events

The 2019 Special Events Calendar Coming Soon! Information will be posted on the Town's website in early March. Stay up to date on what is going on in the Town of La Plata by signing up for our weekly email and liking the Town of La Plata's face book page. If you would like to receive email notifications about upcoming Town of La Plata news and events please send your email to Special Events Coordinator Colleen Wilson at [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org).

### Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny

**Monday, April 22nd 11 AM to 1 PM**

Hop on in for ice cream with the Easter Bunny! Stop by the La Plata Town Hall on the Monday after Easter, April 22nd from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bring the kids for sweet treat, crafts and visit with the Easter Bunny.

### Celebrate La Plata

**Saturday April 27th: 12 PM to 4 PM**

The Town of La Plata will come together for a day of family fun at the annual Spring Festival, Celebrate La Plata on Saturday, April 27th. Enjoy a day of activities for children of all ages at Celebrate La Plata; face painting, displays, entertainment, refreshments for sale from local favorites and ever entertaining Bed Races!

# 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.

*Citizen volunteers are a valuable part of the decision-making process.*



THE TOWN COUNCIL IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING FORM THE FUTURE OF LA PLATA.

IF YOU ARE MOTIVATED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE, YOU ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR A POSITION ON ONE OF THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. CURRENTLY THERE ARE VACANCIES ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION, BOARD OF APPEALS, BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION, AND DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

YOU MAY CONTACT DANIELLE MANDLEY BY EMAIL AT [DMANDLEY@TOWNOFLAPLATA.ORG](mailto:DMANDLEY@TOWNOFLAPLATA.ORG) OR PHONE AT 301-934- 8421 IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION. THE APPLICATION FORM IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [HTTPS://LAPLATA.CIVICWEB.NET/PORTAL/BOARDAPPLICATION](https://laplata.civicweb.net/portal/boardapplication)