

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

As we say goodbye to another Southern Maryland summer, we welcome nature's most colorful time of year. This is the season where we are no longer sweltering in the summer's heat and haven't yet experienced the freeze of the winter's months. Autumn is perfect time to enjoy many outdoor activities with your family such as visiting the local apple orchards, searching for the perfect pumpkin at one of the many pumpkin patches or even getting lost in some of the spectacular corn mazes in our area. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the crisp weather and beautiful foliage and explore our wonderful state and county. If you are not one to venture very far, don't worry – you can stay right here in La Plata. We have many festivities planned for the upcoming months.

ROCKTOBERFEST: 6th Annual Rocktoberfest event will be held on rain or shine on Saturday October 5, 11:00 am to 10:00 pm on LaGrange Ave. in La Plata. All proceeds benefit the Charles County Public Schools Music & Fine Arts programs. It is a family fun day filled with great live music, street & food vendors and a kid zone. The headlining band this year is LIT! You do not want to miss this one!

SHOP SMALL LA PLATA: Support Small Business! Come out and see all of your neighborhood small businesses on Saturday, November 30th from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Many busi-

Continued on page 2

Wills for Heroes



The Town of La Plata hosted Wills for Heroes on Saturday, September 7. The program provides essential legal documents free of charge to our nation's first responders, including wills, living wills, and powers of attorneys. Attorneys and other professionals came to assist La Plata.

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday October 13th: 12 PM to 3 PM

*Live entertainment from Funkzilla
Craft and Food vendors • Petting Zoo
Trackless Train • Art Tent for Kids
Moon Bounce and more!*

Vote for your favorite Scarecrow at the Charles County Chamber of Commerce Booth

HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

Stop by the Town Hall on Friday, October 18th from 5 pm to 7 pm for the Harvest Halloween Party. Come in costume and enjoy crafts, snacks, and treats for the little ones.

Shop Small Saturday

American Express launched Small Business Saturday on November 27, 2010 as a way to encourage people across the country to support small, local businesses.

Fast forward to November 30, 2019 where you have the chance to shop your small, local businesses in La Plata the entire holiday season and beyond.



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

nesses will have sales, giveaways and treats. Plus, pick up your passport from a participating business, and enter to win a fabulous prize. Please visit the La Plata Business Association's Facebook page for more information.



FALL FESTIVAL: On Sunday, October 13th from 12:00–3:00 pm, the Town will be hosting our annual Fall Festival. It is a fantastic afternoon for the entire family. There will be plenty of games and activities for the kids including a petting zoo, art tent and moon bounce; local vendors; crafts, live music and food trucks. The Chamber of Commerce will also be announcing the 2019 Nonprofit of the Year as well as the winner of the 14th Annual Scarecrow Festival.



VETERANS DAY PARADE: Join us, Sunday, November 10 at 1:00 pm to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces. The Salute to Veterans Parade begins at the Courthouse on Charles Street in La Plata. Bring the kids, and come enjoy an old-fashioned, hometown parade!



HUGE LIGHTING OF OUR HOLIDAY TREE: The Town of La Plata is adding a brand new 26-foot Christmas tree to our holiday display and we want you to help us bring it to life! Join us for the first ever tree lighting ceremony of this spectacular tree on Sunday, December 8th in front of Town Hall. A special guest will be arriving to help us light our tree.

A HUGE THANK YOU:

What a huge success our Summer Concert series was this year! We had so many talented bands perform this summer for us. Our finale was AWESOME! We ended with a local favorite, Sam Grow. A huge thank you goes out to Colleen Wilson, Director of Special Events; our Public Works employees (Eddie, Austin, Mitchell, Matthew); our LPPD; and Chick-fil-a for feeding the band each week.

DORCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER:

The former La Plata Police Department, located on Dorchester Avenue, is soon to open as a community center! By partnering with local organizations, businesses, educators and churches, the Dorchester Community Center is becoming a reality. The primary function of the Dorchester Community Center is to create a small gathering place for youth in grades 5th through 9th who are interested in participating in sports, mentoring, tutoring and social and life skills development. The

Center will include multiple computer stations, several small classrooms, a central gathering area and an outdoor space. Various sports activities will take place on and off site. If you would like to learn more about the center or would like to volunteer, please contact us at 301-934-8421.

VOLUNTEER: Your Town Council and Staff 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. We are currently looking for volunteers for Board of Appeals; Design Review Board; and Keep La Plata Beautiful Committee. Please contact us if you are interested in serving on a Committee or Board.

BOARD OF APPEALS: The Board of Appeals for the Town of La Plata meets as needed.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD: Design review considers many aspects of a given proposal, including siting of buildings, building size, shape and materials, location of parking, landscaping and signage. Design review ensures that new development, as well as alterations to existing buildings, maintains and enhances the integrity and quality of the downtown or commercial highway corridor. Meetings are typically held on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month.

KEEP LA PLATA BEAUTIFUL: This Committee focuses on three key areas to expand funding opportunities and technical assistance to local governments, nonprofits, and community groups. The 3 key areas are: Clean Up & Green Up Maryland; Workforce Development; and Outreach Education and Technical Assistance.

LA PLATA BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES:

The following business is celebrating a milestone anniversary in La Plata:

RICHARD R. CLARK SENIOR CENTER – 30 YEARS, OCTOBER 24TH CELEBRATION: The Richard R. Clark Senior Center is celebrating a huge milestone. They will be celebrating by taking a trip down memory lane and many fun activities. For the past 30 years, this Senior Center has addressed the needs of an ever-increasing older population, by providing a wide array of services and activities, including: workshops, classes, lectures, physical fitness programs & equipment, painting, crafts, magic, social/recreational activities, health programs, screenings, & immunizations, computer classes, nutritious lunches, information, assistance, & referral, special events and volunteer opportunities. **CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY RICHARD R. CLARK SENIOR CENTER! WE WISH YOU MANY, MANY MORE YEARS OF SUCCESS.**

If you would like us to share a special business anniversary with our residents, please send me an email at jjames@townofaplata.org.

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 in our great community. Please feel free to call my office at (301) 934-8421 or send me an e-mail at jjames@townofaplata.org. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

Since our next newsletter will arrive after the beginning of the year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the very best this holiday season and may you find joy, peace and happiness as you ring in the New Year.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Monday, November 11, 2019 (Veterans Day)
No Yard Waste pick up, No Trash pick up (pick up 11/12/19)

Thursday, November 28, 2019 (Thanksgiving)
& Friday, November 29
No Trash pick up (pick up 11/27/19)

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 (Christmas Eve)
No Trash pick up (pick up 12/23/19)

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 (Christmas)
No Trash or Recycling pick up (both pick ups 12/26/19)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 (New Year)
No Trash or Recycling pick up (both pick ups 1/20/20)



COUNCIL COLUMN

Business Anniversaries

The Town Council presented Town Seals to two businesses at the July 22 business meeting celebrating their anniversaries.



Choice Professional Resources

Choice Professional Resources at 401 Carroll St., unit #104 celebrated 30 years providing in home and facilities nursing staffing services. Councilman Simpson congratulating the staff of Choice Professional Resources.



La Tolteca Restaurant

La Tolteca Restaurant at 6625 Crain Highway has been serving the community for the past 13 years. Councilman Finagin presented a Town seal to La Tolteca.

Councilwoman Emily Mudd Hendricks, Ward III

Greetings from Ward 3 and Happy Fall! I am excited to report on a new initiative for the Town of La Plata. In August the Town Council passed a resolution to establish the Keep La Plata Beautiful (KLB) committee and membership. Keep La Plata Beautiful is part of a larger national program called Keep American Beautiful which is an affiliate of the Main Street Maryland program (a comprehensive downtown revitalization program). The collective goal is to inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community. As an affiliate group the Town will have the opportunity to take advantage of resources such as training materials and seek funding through grants.

On a regular basis I hear from members of our community eager to make a difference in related areas such as the arts, protecting flora and fauna, litter cleanup and recycling. This committee and subcommittees will allow for organized collaboration to accomplish goals and seek out funding sources. We currently have the commitment of several local community groups and stakeholders to assist this effort but we are also seeking resident members to join the committee. I have willingly agreed to serve as the Town Council designee for this committee and ask that you please contact me if you would like to join emuddhendricks@townoflaplata.org.

Councilwoman Paddy Mudd, Ward IV

Fall is here and La Plata's calendar is filled with activities. Your Council, staff, all our Commissions and the La Plata Business Association have plans for many beautiful, fun filled family days through the fall and Christmas season. See our calendar for all the details but I want to mention a few. Our Historic Preservation Commission plans to open the Train Station Museum for Rocktoberfest, Saturday October 5th, and on Sunday November 10th for the Veterans' Parade, 10 AM-3 PM. Our last open day this year will be Shop Small Business Day on Saturday, November 30th.

We plan a special treat for all with the Painter Family Train display in the station waiting room! We will have visits from Santa throughout the day and small gifts for the kids. All our Town shops and restaurants will be open for business and also this is the final day of our Farmers Market for the year. The Town Hall and La Grange Ave. will be decorated with our new outdoor lights and Christmas Tree! Come out for a day of fun for the entire family!

The Council has established the Keep La Plata Beautiful Committee which you will hear more about in the coming months. This committee brings together representatives of several ecological groups as well as our Beautification Commission, garden clubs, HOAs, etc. to work with our Main Street Affiliate program. In my opinion a few minor things that can help immediately would include – 1. A large trash can and maybe a bench at every Van Go stop. 2. Policing and charging the merchants for stray shopping carts. (I know LPPD has worked on this but the Council has not taken action.) 3. Have groups or individuals take responsibility for regular trash pickups along our downtown streets. 4. Clear the weeds and trash from Rt. 301, Heritage Green medians, etc. 5. Work with SMECO to get the colonial light posts throughout Town coordinated in bulb color and on/off cycle.

A glorious fall, Thanksgiving, and a Merry Christmas to you all! Reach me at pmudd@townoflaplata.org or (301) 934-8421

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

Director of Legislative Services/
Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley
Police Chief: Carl H. Schinner
Director of Planning: Jeanine Harrington

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 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 50 lbs. 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:

Monday, November 11, 2019
Thursday, November 28, 2019
Friday, November 29, 2019
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Trash will be picked up on:

Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Wednesday, November 27, 2019
Wednesday, November 27, 2019
Monday, December 23, 2019
Thursday, December 26, 2019
Thursday, January 2, 2020

Yard Waste Pick Up – No Pick Ups on the following days:

Monday, November 11, 2019 • Friday, November 29, 2019 • Monday, December 23, 2019

Recycling Pick Up:

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 recycling as normal
Wednesday, December 25, 2019 no recycling pick up, pick up will be December 26, 2019
Wednesday, January 1, 2020 no recycling pick up, recycling will be January 2, 2020

Special Pick Ups:

Monday, October 7, 2019 • Monday, November 4, 2019 • Monday, December 2, 2019

Christmas Tree Pick Up will begin Thursday, December 26, 2019 – Friday, January 10, 2020

Loose Leave Pick Up will begin October 14, 2019 – December 20, 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... 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 with any inquiries.

LOOSE LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE

The Town of La Plata Public Works Department will be offering loose leaf collection from October 14, 2019 to December 20, 2019. The crews will be picking up per this schedule, so there will be no need to contact the Town Hall for pick-up service.

The Town would like to ask our residents to support our going green program by mulching your leaves and using it for fertilizer for your yards. For our residents who wish to bag their leaves, the pick-up will be on our yard waste schedule of Mondays and Fridays.

The loose leaf pick up schedule will be as follows, but is subject to change at any time:

October 14, 2019 – October 18, 2019 and November 4, 2019 – November 8, 2019

Kings Grant, Agricopia, Quailwood, Port Tobacco Road, West Hawthorne Drive and adjacent side streets.

October 21, 2019 – October 25, 2019 and November 12, 2019 – November 15, 2019

St. Mary's Avenue, Oak Avenue, Kent Avenue, Washington Avenue, Charles Street, Hickory Ridge and adjacent side streets.

October 28, 2019 – November 1, 2019 and November 18, 2019 – November 22, 2019

Clarks Run.

December 2, 2019 – December 20, 2019

Final pickup of the entire Town.

There will be no pick-up on Monday, November 11, 2019 or the week of November 25, 2019.

There will be no loose-leaf pickup after December 20, 2019, all leaves must be bagged after this date.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421 or mtrollinger@townofaplata.org



Trick or Treat Evening

Trick or Treat evening in La Plata is Tuesday, October 31, from 6:00



p.m. until 8:00 p.m. As an alternative to door to door trick or treating, the Town continues to encourage community parties as a means of providing safe fun for our children. However, for those who allow their children to go door-to-door, we ask that you limit this to the 12 and under age group, and encourage you to accompany your children as chaperones and keep your children in their own immediate neighborhood. We encourage these safety precautions for all children who go out trick or treating:

- ◆ Wear reflective tape or other reflective material on your costume so you are visible as you walk along the streets.
- ◆ Use a flashlight to help light your way.
- ◆ Don't wear a mask that would keep you from being able to easily see vehicles or other hazards as you walk from house to house.

All who are driving through Town during Trick or Treat Evening on October 31st are asked to be especially careful of the children walking through the neighborhoods.

Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)

- FOGs are one of the top cause of blockages and backups in sewer lines, which cause sanitary sewer overflows and basement backups.
- They are preventable.
- Grease is a byproduct of cooking and comes from meat fats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces, and dairy products.
- FOG blockages are expensive to correct. If it occurs on your property (commercial or residential), it will be the owner's responsibility to contact a plumber to have it cleared.
- Sewage overflows can result in serious harm to streams, forests, and landscaping.



Help Prevent Blockages & Backups by Disposing of Grease Properly

- NEVER dump grease down the sink.
- Collect the grease in a metal can (soup or coffee cans work great).
- Once the grease has cooled and solidified, dispose of all cooking grease, fats, and oils in the trash for disposal.

Common Myths about Grease

- Garbage disposals do nothing to protect your drain lines from accumulating grease.
- Dishwashing detergents do not protect your lines from grease buildup. While it is true that they initially break up grease, they eventually lose this ability and grease will begin to accumulate in sewer lines.
- Chasing grease down the drain with hot water only causes the grease to build-up elsewhere.

LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

From the Desk of the Chief



The best part of online shopping is never having to fight for a parking space, waiting in long lines to pay or finding empty shelves. Unfortunately, the reality at least some of the time, is coming home to an empty box or no box at all. As the holiday season approaches, the La Plata Police Department (LPPD) wants our residents to partner with us to prevent package thefts.



Did you know there were 11 million parcel packages stolen from porches in 2016? Did you know 41% of consumers avoid some online purchases because they fear package theft? Did you know the average value of a package stolen is between \$50-\$100? Operation Prevent Porch Piracy, a LPPD community policing initiative, is the agency's way of keeping your holiday season theft free.

Package delivery thefts hit La Plata residents every holiday season. To prevent these thefts, LPPD is encouraging citizens to have on-line purchases delivered to the La Plata Police Department, 101 La Grange Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646. LPPD will accept packages from November 18, 2019 through December 20, 2019. LPPD will not accept delivery of any oversized, flammable, explosives, fireworks, or firearms. If you have any questions, please call (301) 934-1500.

Always remember, no matter what the issue we're always here to serve our residents, visitors, and businesses. Never hesitate to give us a call!

See you on the road!
Chief Carl Schinner

Toys for Tots

The La Plata Police Department at 101 La Grange Avenue and the Town Hall at 305 Queen Anne Street will be drop off locations for Toys for Tots. If you would like to give please drop off a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys will be picked up by the Waldorf Jaycees and will be distributed by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to less fortunate children in Charles County for Christmas.



Toys for Tots Foundation, 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization.

Stuff a Truck

The La Plata Police Department would like to THANK our residents and the residents of Charles County for their generosity today at LPPD's Stuff the Squad Car event. We were hoping to fill a couple of squad cars with needed food donations for LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc. Summer Meals Plus Program. At the end of the day, LPPD received eight squad cars full of food!!!

The event was assisted by the Southern Maryland Gladiators, who brought with them lots of community spirit...and needed food items! Thank you Southern Maryland Gladiators!!!

LPPD would also like to thank Safeway for supporting this important event!



OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1



Planning Commission Meeting; 7:00 pm

Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

3

Yard Waste Pick Up



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Rocktoberfest

6

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special pickup call by 10/4

7

Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm

8



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 7:30 am
Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 am

9

10

Yard Waste Pick Up
Beautification Commission Meeting; 10:00 am

11



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

13



Fall Festival noon to 3:00 pm

Yard Waste Pick Up

14

Council Work Session; 6:00 pm

15



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

16

17

Yard Waste Pick Up
Harvest Party; 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

18



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

19

20

Yard Waste Pick Up
Council Work Session; 6:00 pm

21

22



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

23

24

Yard Waste Pick Up

25



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

26

27

Yard Waste Pick Up
Council Business Meeting; 7:00 pm

28

29



Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

30

31

Trick or Treat; 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm



DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

Special Pick Up
(call by 11/27/19)
Yard Waste Pick Up

2

Planning Commission
Meeting: 7:00 pm

3

8


Olde Tyne Holiday
Gathering & Tree
Lighting

Council Work Session;
6:00 pm
Yard Waste Pick Up

9

Crime Watch Council
Meeting: 7:00 pm

10

15

Council Work
Session; 6:00 pm
Council Business
Meeting; 7:00 pm
Toys for Tots
Last Day to Donate
Yard Waste Pick Up

16

17

22

No Yard Waste Pick Up
Trash Pick Up for 12/24

23

**CHRISTMAS
EVE**
Town Hall Closed
No Trash Pick Up
Trash Pick Up 12/23

24

CHRISTMAS
Town Hall
Closed
No Trash Pick Up
No Recycling Pick Up
Trash & Recycling
Pick Up 12/26

25

Trash & Recycling
Pick Up for 12/25
Christmas Tree
Recycling Pick Up
Begins

26

Yard Waste Pick Up

27

Yard Waste Pick Up

28

First Day of Winter


29

Yard Waste Pick Up

30

31

[JANUARY 1, 2020](#)
Town Hall Closed
No Trash & Recycling
Pick Up
Trash & Recycling
Pick Up 1/2/20

[JANUARY 2, 2020](#)
Trash & Recycling
Pick Up for 1/1/20

13


Beautification
Commission
Meeting; 10:00 am
Yard Waste Pick Up

14


Breakfast with Santa
(reservations required)

Yard Waste Pick Up

Siren Testing; 10:00 am
Household Hazardous
Waste Collection

PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Citizen Self Service Portal

The Planning Department will be implementing an online portal to make applying for permits and plan review easier and more efficient. We are hoping to have the EnerGov Citizen Self Service (CSS) portal implemented early next year. Updates on the upgrade will be posted to the Town's website (www.townoflaplata.org) and the Planning Department Facebook page (@laplataplanning).

Census 2020

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. The 2020 Census will begin on April 1, 2020 and data collected from the census will provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs which impact housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. Census data is also used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Your information is protected by law! The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics. They cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you. They will never share your information with immigration enforcement agencies such as ICE, law enforcement agencies such as the FBI or police, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits. Your help and participating matters to the Town of La Plata!

For more information go to <https://www.census.gov>

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. We will be scheduling another public forum to review

the draft Comprehensive Plan before proceeding with outside agency review and public hearings. If you missed any of the previous meetings, please visit the Town's Comprehensive Plan webpage at bit.ly/ToLPCompUpdate where you can review the meeting results and participate in all of the activities.

If you are interested in receiving updates, please contact the Planning Department by phone at (301) 934-8421 or by email at jharrington@townoflaplata.org.

Town Code Updates:

As part of the continued effort to revise the Town Code, staff is currently in the process of updating Chapter 191, Zoning Code and Chapter 108 Floodplain Management Regulations. The Town of La Plata Zoning Code was adopted on July 30, 2018 and became effective on August 15, 2018. Since that time staff has noted several amendments that should be considered by the Planning Commission. Staff also considered the need for a Resource Protection Chapter in order to provide additional regulations that will further protect the environmental resources of the Town. Currently Chapter 108 contains provisions on Floodplain Management regulations and staff felt that this would be an appropriate section to place protection standards for sensitive areas including streams, wetlands, the flood plain, Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS, habitats of a threatened or endangered species, steep slopes, hydric soils, highly erodible soils, and any other area in need of special protection, as may be determined by the Planning Commission. Staff reviewed Codes from Charles County Government and St. Mary's County Government along with the State of Maryland COMAR to research regulations on the sensitive areas specified above.

The proposed revisions are currently being reviewed at the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings which take place the first Tuesday of every month. If you are interested in learning more about Town Code updates, please contact the Planning Department or sign up for meeting notifications on the Town's Civic Web.

TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS



The Town of La Plata will test early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** Testing is done twice per year in early May and early December. The testing lasts about a half hour. The tests consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. The tests are conducted in conjunction with the Charles County 911 Communications Center, which controls and operates the system for the Town.

The devices are installed at the following locations:

- On Charles Street in front of the Charles County Courthouse
- On Curley Hall Road at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (near Quailwood Subdivision)
- In Clarks Run Subdivision
- In King's Grant Subdivision
- On Shining Willow Way next to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

Emergency Management Officials remind you that in the event of a real emergency to stay tuned to local radio stations for more information, to have emergency supplies on hand - including a radio which can be operated during a power outage, and to know where the safe haven is in your home. It is everyone's responsibility to plan for an emergency.

TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY 2019/20

County Plowed Roads	Town Plowed Roads	State Plowed Roads
Glen Albin Road St. Mary's Avenue from Frederick Drive to Rt. 301 Washington Avenue from Route 301 to Route 6 Radio Station Road	St. Mary's Avenue from Rt. 6 to Frederick Drive Quailwood Parkway from Hawthorne to Route 6	Route 301 Route 6 – Charles Street Route 225 – Hawthorne Drive west beginning at Route 301 Route 488

Snow Preparation Procedures

- Snow removal crews will be put into action at the call of the Director or Asst. Director of Public Works
- Snow removal will begin when 2–3 inches of snow has accumulated on roadways.
- Snow removal efforts will be ongoing during the event and will continue until all streets in the Town are cleared.
- It may be necessary to pile snow in front of mailboxes, especially in smaller courts and cul-de-sacs.

Plow Routes

- The Town will normally plow to provide better access to the higher traveled streets first (Primary Roads, Collector Streets and Major residential roads). In addition, the Town has agreed to provide snow removal and salting for treatment of ice accumulation from all roadways, parking areas, vehicle entrances, sidewalks, and bus stop location at the MTA lot located on Washington Avenue.
- Secondly secondary streets and municipal buildings are plowed.
- Lastly cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets are plowed.

Icy Conditions

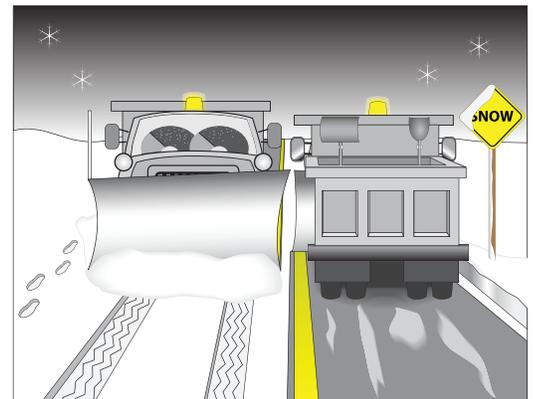
- Salt distribution will be determined based on the following criteria and priority:
 - ♦ Main Collector Streets
 - ♦ Streets with Hills
 - ♦ Difficult intersections – stop lights and stop signs
 - ♦ Major residential roads
- Cul-de-sacs and courts may not receive salt treatment

Sidewalks

- Town crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks at public facilities, Town Hall and Parks.
- Town of La Plata property owners are responsible for keeping all sidewalks along their property clear and free of snow and ice.

Parking

- Residents are asked not to park vehicles on any street.
- If you must park on the street park as close to the curb as possible and on one side of the street.



EXAMPLES OF STREET DESIGNATIONS:

Primary Roads	Collector Streets	Major Residential	Secondary
Agricopia Drive East Patuxent Drive Oriole Lane Shining Willow Way	St. Mary's Avenue Washington Avenue Heritage Green Pkwy.	Llano Drive Martin Drive	Baltimore St. Cecil St. Calvert St. Howard St.

Snow Emergency Routes

Parking of vehicles on marked snow emergency routes is prohibited when the snow emergency plan is in effect for Charles County. Parking shall continue to be prohibited until the snow emergency plan has been cleared. Any vehicles that are illegally parked, that are obstructing traffic, or interfering with the clearing of snow and/or ice are subject to a parking violation or the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.

Continued on page 12

TOWN OF LA PLATA SNOW POLICY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Mailbox Replacement Policy

Please contact the Public Works Department at (301) 934-8421, if your mailbox is damaged during snow removal. The Public Works Department will investigate the claim to determine if the damage was caused by the Town or contracted equipment making physical contact with the mailbox. If it is determined by the Public Works Department that the mailbox damage was at fault of the Town or contracted equipment the following options are available.

1. Replacement by the Town of existing mailbox with a standard wooden post and mailbox.
2. Property owners may be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$50.00. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to replace the mailbox.

Mailboxes damaged by snow flowing from plows will not be replaced or reimbursed.

Snow Removal – What You Can Expect When It Snows

When it snows, Town and contracted crews concentrate on keeping primary Town roads and major residential neighborhood streets passable. These roads are cleared down to pavement as soon as possible after a storm is over.

Plowing generally begins when snow becomes 2 – 3 inches deep and the temperature indicates there will be no melting. Even after plowing, snow that has been hard packed by traffic often remains on the street, and the plows are unable to remove it completely. In this type of situation, a mixture of sand and salt is spread to provide adequate traction.

- It takes a minimum of 12 hours following the end of a 3” to 4” snowfall to plow and/or treat every primary Town road once.
- After a 5” to 7” snowfall, you can expect primary and major residential Town roads to be plowed within 18 to 24 hours.
- After an 8” to 10” snowfall, you can expect primary and major residential Town roads to be plowed within 24 to 36 hours.
- 15” of snowfall will require about 36 to 48 hours, and 24” of snowfall will require 48 to 60 hours.
- Please note, the type of snow (wet or powder) the temperatures and wind conditions following a storm can alter this schedule.
- In some cases, where snow is drifting and blowing, snow plows will concentrate on snow emergency routes and primary roads. This may decrease response time to residential or neighborhood roads.
- Please be patient, streets are plowed per their priority.

TOWN POSTS SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

Old man winter is just around the corner, this means the possibility of snow. The Public Works Department has posted snow emergency routes throughout the Town. Parking will be prohibited on these streets while a snow emergency plan is in effect for Charles County. Vehicles parked along



these roads will be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense during a snow emergency. To aid snow removal crews and improve safety, please do not park along streets when winter weather is in the forecast. Instead park in your garage, driveway, or designated parking space.

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agricopia Drive | Hickory Circle | Redwood Circle |
| Bath Drive | Hickory Lane | Savanna Drive |
| Clarks Run Road | Kent Avenue | Shining Willow Way
(between Rt. 301 and
Washington Avenue) |
| Cornwall Drive | La Grange Avenue | Somerset Street |
| East Patuxent Drive | Llano Drive | St. Mary's Avenue |
| Fescue Circle | Magnolia Drive | Suffolk Drive |
| Garrett Avenue | Norfolk Drive | Wales Drive |
| Hawthorne Drive (between
Rt. 301 and Washington
Avenue) | Oak Avenue | Wicomico Street |
| Heritage Green Parkway | Oriole Lane | Willow Lane |
| | Quailwood Parkway | |
| | Queen Anne Street | |

Municipal Government Month

Since 1993, cities and towns throughout the state have been celebrating Municipal Government Works Month each November in an effort to educate their citizens about the role and function of the government closest to them.

To promote municipal government awareness, many cities and towns will recognize November as Municipal Government Works Month with local proclamations, such as the proclamation which will be adopted by the Town Council on October 28, 2019 and will the display a flag with the logo MGW, "Municipal Government Works," to promote local government.

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 3, 2019!



Don't forget to set your clocks
back one hour.

PRIOR EVENTS

Photos from Neighborhood Event Grant Awards

Washington Square – Italian Night in Washington Square, Saturday June 15th Saturday June 15th



Haldane Court – Community Clean-up & Connection Day, June 22



Edelen Station – Ice Cream Social Block Party, Saturday in June 15



Hickory Ridge – Summer Ice Cream Social, June 27th

Funds were awarded from the Town of La Plata's Neighborhood Event Mini- Grant for this event.



Photos from National Night Out Grant Awards

Faith Temple Baptist Church



Hickory Ridge



Hawthorne Greene



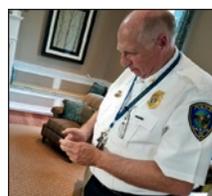
Carroll La Plata Village, La Plata Grande Gardens I & II



Washington Square



Villages of Steeplechase



PRIOR EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)



National Night Out Grant Recipients

Councilman Matthew Simpson, Councilwoman Paddy Mudd and Councilwoman Emily Mudd Hendricks presented the National Night Out Grant awards at the July 22 business meeting. Congratulations to the following communities who received the National Night Out grant from the Town of La Plata:

Faith Temple Baptist Church
Hawthorne Greene
Washington Square
Hickory Ridge

Carroll La Plata Village
La Plata Grande Gardens I & II
Villages of Steeplechase
Maples Cottages

It was National Night Out in La Plata on August 6! Residents turned out at a dozen parties around town. There was pizza, BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, Italian ice and much more. Here are some photos from last night's parties!

Congratulations, Gators!

Councilman Matthew Simpson presented a proclamation to the Hawthorne Country Club Gators Swim Team

Congratulations on retaining the team title for the 3rd year in a row in the 34th annual Charles County Swim Championships on July 14, 2019. Your dedication and sportsmanship is evident in the history-making win. We wish you continued success in years to come.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Rocktoberfest 2019
Saturday October 5, 11 am to 10 pm
on La Grange Ave in La Plata.

All proceeds benefit the Charles County Public Schools Music & Performing Arts programs. It is a family fun day filled with great live music, street & food vendors and a kid zone. You do not want to miss this one!

For more information check out the La Plata Business Association's facebook page.

La Grange Ave will be partially closed beginning early Friday October 4th and will remain closed until the morning of Sunday October 6th.

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Celebrate the season with music, children's activities, refreshments, horse-drawn carriage rides by Suttler Post Farm and visit from Santa. New this year – 26 foot Christmas tree at Town Hall! The tree will be displayed in the circle at Town Hall and will be officially lit during the event. Full event schedule will be posted on the Town's website by mid-October.



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14th
4 time slots: 8-8:45 am, 9-9:45 am, 10-10:45 am
and 11-11:45 am (25 kids per slot)

Town residents can register for time slots starting
Wednesday, November 13th and the general public
registration will open Wednesday, November 20th.
To register, call Town Hall at 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.



Salute to Veterans Parade Sunday, November 10th at 1 pm

Watch the parade make its way to Town Hall down
Charles Street and La Grange Avenue.
Registration forms are available on the Town's website
or contact cwilson@townoflaplata.org.