

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR! With a new year comes a new opportunity to pause and think about the year that has been, as well as to look towards the year to come.

2019 was a great year for our Town! We welcomed many new businesses; employees and residents to La Plata.

NEW BUSINESSES: We welcomed several new businesses to our Town including Bark of the Town; Cold Stone Creamery; Foster's Grille; Griffith Energy Services; Hancock Farms; Landon's Ices & Cream; Neighborhood Creative Arts Center; The Bill and Julie Imaging Center; Wild Birds Unlimited, Adon Preschool Center; just to name a few.

TOWN ACCOLADES: 2019 saw the growth and promotions in many of our departments: In the Planning Department, Jeanine Harrington was promoted to Director of Planning and Aaron Mosrie was promoted to Inspector III. The Department also hired a new Planner II, Laura Lyons; an Inspector I, Valerie Cook; and an Administrative Assistant I, Katherine Williams.

Our Police Department swore in two new Officers; David Roys and David Clements as well as Robert Tippet as a Police Officer Candidate. They also

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50 Years of Service to the Town of La Plata

The Town Council had the pleasure of congratulating Bill Eckman for 50 years of service to the Town of La Plata at their October 28, 2019 business meeting. Bill received accolades from the Governor's Office, Town Council and Maryland Municipal League.

Bill Eckman moved to La Plata in 1969 with his wife and three children due to a job transfer. He immediately began his role in public service for the Town of La Plata. He was elected to the Town Council in 1969 and continuously reelected until 1981. He was then elected as Mayor in 1983 and held that position until May 2005 when he retired.

Mayor Eckman has held many positions on both the local and State level. He is the past president of the Maryland Municipal League, Maryland Rural Water Association, and Southern Maryland Municipal Association. He has lobbied to the Maryland General Assembly on behalf of issues that directly affect municipalities, such as

Smart Growth, Annexations, and Storm Water Management. Mayor Eckman has served on a number of Task Forces in Maryland which included the US 301 Task Force and 1997 State Task Force to study County Property Tax Set-offs. He also served on a twenty-seven member commission, including ten members of the General Assembly, established by Governor Ehrlich in 2003 to study and recommend long-term transportation funding solutions critical to the future of Maryland. Mayor Eckman also authored and published a book in 1994 titled "The Fire Department Water Supply Handbook" that discusses various planning strategies, fire department water supply needs, shuttle operations and water sources.



L to R, Scott Hancock, MML Executive Director, Bill Eckman, Ryan Spiegel MML President, Mayor Jeannine James

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TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

hired Jackie DeSoto as a Compliance Coordinator.

Our Public Works Department hired Donnie Cox as a Foreman/Supervisor and John Gromen as WWTP Operator.

Our Legislative Services Department grew by one with the addition of Kelly Phipps as a Legislative Administrative Assistant. Kelly also continues to serve as our Market Master and under her direction, expanded the La Plata Farmer's Market in 2019 by adding new vendors, projects and events.

Danielle Mandley became President of the Maryland Municipal Clerk's Association; Officer John Piersa was selected as La Plata Police Department's Officer of the Year and I was reappointed to serve on the MML's Legislative Committee, as well as elected to serve on the Maryland Municipal League's Board of Directors.

Our beloved Mayor, Bill Eckman, was recognized and honored for 50 years of service to the Town of La Plata! He received resolutions and citations from our Town Council; the President of the Maryland Municipal League's Board of Directors, Ryan Spiegel; MML Executive Director, Scott Hancock; and from our Governor, Larry Hogan.

OTHER NEWS: There was another Mayor in Town! Our 2nd Junior Mayor, Kevon Williams, was chosen based on the well-written essay he submitted to the "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." Contest. Junior Mayor Williams had some wonderful ideas on changes he would make to our Town if he was Mayor. He said he would put in sidewalks all through Town; add more speed limit signs in the neighborhoods; and encourage the citizens of La Plata to participate in community clean up events. Kevon presided over a business meeting with much confidence and was able to get a glimpse of the workings of municipal government.

Some other notable accomplishments in 2019 include the implementation of a Commercial recycling program; the official opening of The La Plata Train Station Museum; becoming the first city in Maryland to earn the designation of Bird City USA; becoming a Keep La Plata Beautiful community (which is an affiliate

of Keep Maryland Beautiful); and the amazing addition of our 26' Christmas Tree in front of Town Hall.

WORKING TOGETHER: One of my favorite mottos is, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." In 2019 we continued to strengthen our partnerships with many businesses and organizations.

We had an incredibly successful Rocktoberfest again in 2019. Donations from the proceeds benefitted The Charles County Board of Education's Music and Fine Arts program to the tune of \$41,000! Shop Small La Plata was also a huge hit! The Town was bustling with shoppers on Charles Street looking for great deals and trying to find the missing Toy Story characters hidden throughout the Town!

Our Staff, Council, County Commissioners and County Administrators continue to collaborate on many projects that will have a positive impact on our Town.

GOALS FOR 2020:

Some of our goals for 2020 include opening the Community Center; solidifying a new location for the library and carousel; and making the Town a walkable community.

DORCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER: The first quarter of 2020, the doors of The Dorchester Community Center will be open. Our fantastic committee and partners comprised of teachers, parents, coaches, Pastors, youth mentors, and Town Staff, have worked hard to make this center operational! There are so many fun activities and programs planned for our

Middle school-aged students.

LIBRARY & CAROUSEL: Your Town Council and the County Commissioners are committed to building a state-of-the-art library in La Plata as well as finding a permanent home for a full-scale working carousel and an educational building. We hope that we can secure the property this year and break ground in the foreseeable future.

WALKABLE COMMUNITY: We are one step closer to becoming a walkable community, and in 2020, we are determined to achieve this status. We have teamed up with Main Street Maryland; America Walks; and HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) Cities & Towns program to help us accomplish this goal. We continue to work with the County to put sidewalks on Washington Avenue. Walkability in our downtown area is the key to success. By increasing foot traffic, we all win: it helps the environment; has a direct effect on individuals' health; and will boost economic development!

2020 is poised to be a productive year. Your Council and Town Staff continue to work hard and persevere. As Colin Powell once said, "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

We 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 with any questions, suggestions or concerns. Your opinion matters!

Are you interested in staying informed?

The Town has implemented an agenda management system. This system allows you to sign up to receive an email when an agenda is published, with a link to that agenda or notice. You can access this feature and view past, current and future agendas from the Town web site at www.townofaplata.org. On the home page under Quick Links select Meeting Agendas, this link will take you to the Town's Civic Web site. You can then scroll to Subscribe to Email Notices, select those that interest you, enter your email and subscribe.

If you have any questions please contact the Town Clerk, Danielle Mandley via phone at (301) 934-8421 or email at dmandley@townofaplata.org.

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Matthew Simpson, Ward I

The holiday season was upon us. Between Thanksgiving, and the numerous December holidays we saw an increase in traffic, both vehicle and foot. This increase is a sign of everyday life to come. Make no mistake, we are always growing, and will continue to do so as long as we are geographically located so close to Washington D.C. I understand the consternation that comes with new people, new cars, new homes. What should be considered is new jobs, new businesses and new infrastructure that is possible as a result. If we are going to grow, and we are, then let us do it now, on our terms, when the needs are the greatest and the projects, which do not happen overnight, put these things in place for us. The time is now, while we still have choices and desire along with developers with projects, that know us and we can brag about, not later, when it is too late to solve the mounting problems, repairs and deficits that come from all of the missed opportunities to get it right, with developers and projects we cannot be proud of.

The new bridge across the Potomac is happening. If not today, then tomorrow, not ten years from now. This will only increase the flow of traffic through our Town at the worst possible times. The County is not giving any thought to the impact this will have on the Town. I assure you, the Town is eyeing the situation, and we will do our best to complete projects that give locals more options to traverse the quagmire that is traffic these days. If we wait, we will be swamped, from the south by car, from the north by development that was the most unplanned planned community in memory. Transit options are few and far between, and the County decided La Plata, despite its central location and its ease of travel southward was not ideal for their plans of a modern but obsolete bus system. It would seem we are left to our own solutions, and we will find them, with your help. I continue my discussions with project leaders for affordable housing (Enterprise Homes), the HUB (Tower Companies) and Southwest Quadrant (Stage Coach LLC, the Baldus Family and Steeplechase). These are important growth needs that we can undertake today with groups we know and see on the street. We cannot build our way

out of a mess, but we can build to avoid future ones by acting with the idea that what we do will be felt for years to come.

In recent months, I have met with County Commissioners regarding the inclusion of La Plata in its transit plans and questioned them on their preparedness for the coming storm in July at the meeting with the Towns. I have asked the Commissioners to include La Plata in the planning of the new library, about adding cross walks to Washington Avenue in strategic locations to prepare for new travel plans, and to connect to our water system as laid out in the Hazen Study required by the State of Maryland to help secure our system price controls and to solve the reverse osmosis issues they face in Bel Alton. I have discussed with The Village of Port Tobacco possibly connecting to our sewer and water system to provide us a path to lowering fees and saving the watershed. Our Public Works department is second to none, and as we lay out ambitious plans to handle growth and lower rates through expansion and innovative solutions, keep an eye out of new deals and opportunities that the Department takes to lower rates, save money and give us a unique farm to table solution we can laugh about and enjoy. Remember today is already yesterday, but every day that comes is another to work towards a shared goal for what a new day should look like.

If you have not yet participated, the Horizon Comprehensive Plan process is ongoing. Please help find the solutions, with our developer friends, business friends, and our neighbors through the public hearing phase. Please come have your voice heard, as I do not speak for all of you, and do not presume to do so, but I will if you don't show up.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Commercial Occupancy Permits Issued 9/1/19 – 11/30/19

101 Catalpa Dr., 106 A	USDA Charter Service Center office
6620 Crain Highway	Mr. FixIt/Essenza Escape
109 N. Maple Avenue	Griffith Energy Services, Inc.
6700 Crain Highway	Artistic Motion Dance Studio
6825 Crain Highway	Used Car Sales/Service Center
5 Garrett Avenue	UMCRMC Labor and Delivery Center

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

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 (New Year)

No Trash or Recycling pick up
(both pick ups 1/02/20)

Monday, January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

No Trash pick up (pick up 1/21/20)

Monday, February 17 (President's Day)

No Yard Waste Pick up
No Trash pick up
(Trash pick up 2/18/20)

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 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

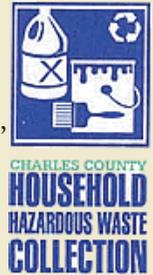
Household hazardous waste collection occurs on the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 3 pm from April through December in the parking lot of the Charles County Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station Road in La Plata. Household hazardous waste collection 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:

Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Monday, January 2, 2020
Monday, February 17, 2020

Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, January 2, 2020
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Recycling Collection

Recycling for Wednesday, January 1, 2020 will be picked up on Thursday, Jan. 2
Recycling for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 will be picked up as scheduled
Recycling for Wednesday, February 19, 2020 will be picked up as scheduled

Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on:
Monday, January 20, 2020
Monday, February 17, 2020

Tree pick up

Ends January 10, 2020

Special Pick Up

Monday, January 6, 2020
Monday, February 3, 2020
Monday, March 2, 2020

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.

50 Years of Service...

Bill Eckman *continued from page 1*

Mayor Eckman was the driving force in the rebuilding of La Plata after the 2002 tornado. Several years prior to the tornado Mayor Eckman had begun a "Vision Plan" in which he joined forces of local leaders, citizens, and business owners to develop a plan of what La Plata should look like in 5, 10, and 50 years. This task took many hours and meetings to come up with what is now known as the "La Plata Vision Plan". This plan was an outline as to how the Town should develop and grow. When the tornado hit, this plan had been accepted and adopted as a planning tool by the Mayor and Council. With this tool in hand State and Federal government felt very comfortable in giving money to the Town for the rebuilding efforts. Mayor Eckman has been requested to speak around the country regarding the recovery efforts of the Town. He prepared an hour long power point presentation that has been presented to Universities, other Towns and Cities, and a variety of associations.

Mayor Eckman has been the recipient of many awards over his government career. Awards such as 2003 John Bloom Citizenship Award, Maryland Economic & Planning Commission Smart Growth Award, Municipal Officials Hall of Fame, Governors Citation, Maryland Economic and Planning Commission Community Activism & Achievement Award just to name a few.

Since leaving office Mayor Eckman's commitments and contributions to the Town of La Plata have not wavered. He was selected by the Town to participate in its Technical Review Team, a staff group that reviews all of the development plans submitted to the Town. He was the principal author of the Municipal Growth element and the Water Resources Element of La Plata's 2009 Comprehensive Plan update per HB 1141. Mayor Eckman developed and was a presenter for a Citizen's Academy to educate residents and businesses about water and sewer issues in the Town. He was very involved in the oversight of the last upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and helps monitor its systems and data today. He is actively involved in

monitoring Inflow and Infiltration in the Town's sewer system, and has trained Town employees regarding water, sewer, and storm water systems. He works with Town staff on the development of the Town's GIS system, and developing a GIS inventory of the Town's storm water, sewer, and water systems. He also contributed to the drafting of the Town's storm water ordinance. His experience, knowledge, and technical expertise continue to serve the Town of La Plata and assist its staff to a substantial degree.

Mayor Eckman has been a mentor to local elected officials. Through his leadership, loyalty and passion to help others, he has paved a way for future generations to succeed.

Hunt Ford Serving the La Plata Community for 50 Years

To honor the occasion of almost 50 years, with our sincere appreciation for the many years of outstanding service and commitment to La Plata, Charles County, and the surrounding areas the Town Council presented members of the Hunt Family a Town seal at the October 28, 2019 business meeting.



L to R, Jeff Hunt, Butch Hunt, Mayor James, Rick Hunt

PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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. The Planning Commission is currently reviewing 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.

LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT



From the Desk of the Chief

The weather in January and February have the potential to create the most dangerous driving conditions of the entire year. Here are some helpful hints to help you and your family as you travel inclement weather conditions.

1. Account for extra travel time. Driving in winter conditions will most likely take more time than usual, due to slower traffic along the way, snow plows and salt sprayers, or unplowed roads.
2. Remove snow or ice from your car. Use an ice scraper or a makeshift ice-scraper (a spatula or CD work fine!) to clear the windows. If the snow accumulation is heavy on the top of the vehicle, be sure to scrape/push the majority of it off. This prevents any large chunks of icy snow from flying off while you're driving and hurting another driver.
3. Drive slower than usual. Following the speed limit is a good rule to live by, and it's important to follow it to keep all drivers safe on the road. If you're uncertain about the conditions of the road, drive under the speed limit, to be safe. The faster your car is going, the less reaction time you'll have to handle your car skidding on ice.
4. Keep your accelerating and decelerating slow. Try not to rev-up or slam on the brakes, for both actions could launch your car into a tailspin.

5. Always wear your seatbelt. The truth is that most winter storm-related deaths involve a vehicle. Wearing a seatbelt reduces your chance of injury, so be sure to buckle up!
6. Don't use cruise control. Winter driving requires you to be in complete control of your car at all times, and it is important since a patch of slippery ice can pop up on the road at any time. For this reason, using cruise control in wintry conditions makes roads that much more dangerous.
7. Watch out for black ice. Thin, transparent ice that blends in with the color of the pavement, commonly known as black ice, is especially dangerous because it's hard to spot, and you don't know you've come up on it until you've slid over it. The best way to handle black ice is to let up on both the gas and brakes, and keep the wheel straight. If you start to fishtail (when the back of your car starts to spin), gently turn the wheel to the direction the spin is going until you've stopped or have regained traction.

Wishing you and yours a safe, happy, and healthy 2020!

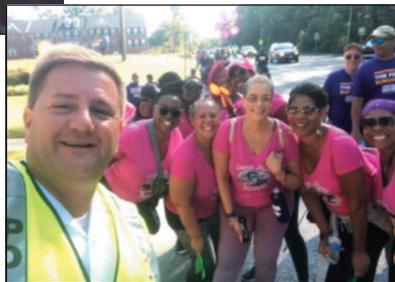
See you on the road!
Chief Carl Schinner



On September 12th, Corporal Tommy Johnston had the opportunity to discuss LPPD's Impaired Driving Enforcement Program with members of the La Plata Rotary Club. Discussion centered on remembering those who were killed by impaired drivers through dedicated Sobriety Checkpoints.



On September 29th, LPPD Chief Carl Schinner, Cadet Kalab Sauers and Explorer Frank Sanchez participated in the Milton M. Somers Middle School - Somers Soriee. Our team enjoyed meeting some of Charles County's future leaders.



On September 21st, Captain Christopher Becker takes a moment to have his photo taken with participants of today's Alzheimer's walk.



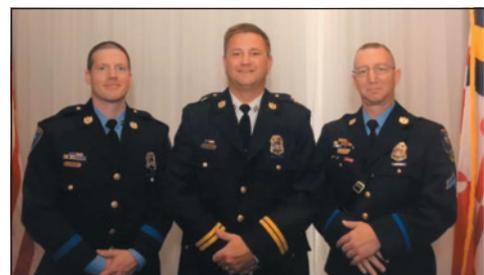
LPPD's Veterans Day Parade team posing in front of the agency's new mobile command post.



Sergeant Jeff Wooddell, PFC Jimmy Buckles, and Sergeant Jason Posey graduated from the Easton Police Department's Honor Guard Training. The Easton Police Department has trained law enforcement honor guards from around the region for many years.



Halloween Patrol 2019



On October 27th, Corporal Tommy Johnston and Officer John Piersa were recognized for their efforts in removing impaired drivers from La Plata's roadways at the 18th Annual Maryland Highway Safety Office's Impaired Driving Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony in Ocean City. LPPD congratulates both officers as they work to keep La Plata's roadways safe.

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

New time for Planning Commission Meetings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up No Recycling Pick Up Trash/Recycling Pick Up on 1/2	Trash/Recycling Pick Up from 1/2	Yard Waste Pick Up	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick up, please call by 1/3	Yard Waste Pick Up	*Planning Commission Meeting; 6:00 pm*	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 7:30 am Design Review Board meeting; 9:00 am	Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up Last Day for Christmas Tree Pick Up Beautification Commission Meeting; 10:00 am	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm			Yard Waste Pick Up	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up Trash Pick Up 1/21	Town Council Work Session; 6:00 pm Trash Pick Up from 1/20			Yard Waste Pick Up	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Yard Waste Pick Up Town Council Business Meeting; 7:00 pm					Yard Waste Pick Up	

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2



Ground Hog Day

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick Up,
call by 1/31

Planning
Commission
Meeting; 6:00 pm

3

9

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

Crime Watch Council
Meeting; 7:00 pm

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

**President's
Day**
Town Hall Closed
No Yard Waste Pick Up
No Trash Pick Up
Trash Pick Up 2/18

17

18

19

20

21

22

Trash Pick Up
from 2/17
Town Council Work
Session; 6:00 pm

Recycling Pick Up as
normal

Yard Waste Pick Up

23

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

24

25

26

27

28

29

Yard Waste Pick Up

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

Special Pick Up
call by 2/28

Yard Waste Pick Up

2

Planning Commission
Meeting: 6:00 pm

3

4

5

6

7

8



Time to
Spring Ahead
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

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

Beautification
Commission
Meeting: 10:00 am



9

15



Town Council Work
Session: 6:00 pm

Sr. Patrick's Day

17

18

19



1st Day of Spring

20

21

22

Town Council Business
Meeting: 7:00 pm

23

24

25

26

27

28

Trash Pick Up for 12/24

Yard Waste Pick Up

29

30

31

SATURDAY, APRIL 4



Farmers Market Opens:
8:00 am

Yard Waste Pick Up

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

One of the many goals of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is to recognize public sites and buildings that have been preserved for several decades and continue to serve for the good of our community.

On November 22, 2019 the HPC recognized “The Theater”, home of the Port Tobacco Players, by placing a bronze plaque on the exterior of the building. The President of the PTP Melissa Ball and Mayor Jeannine James unveiled the plaque prior to the opening of the holiday musical, ELF.



The first La Plata Town Hall was on this privately owned site. It was used as the social center for town events and served as a movie hall until the building was destroyed by fire in 1940. (Following the November 26, 1926 tornado that destroyed the public school, students attended classes in Town Hall until the new La Plata School was built 1927. The Charles County Government is now located there).

The present building, circa 1942, was the Charles Theater until it closed in 1973. In 1974 the Port Tobacco Players purchased the building. It is now the center for cultural art in our town.

Shopping Small in 1924

Children and parents alike were delighted to find the fantastic Painter Family train layout on display in the La Plata Train Station Museum as part of the Shop Small Saturday festivities November 30, 2019. The massive layout featured Lionel locomotives puffing smoke and blowing whistles, Thomas the Tank Engine, minions, dinosaurs, a drive in the theater, carnival, a town square decorated with Christmas lights and something weird peeking out from under a manhole cover every few minutes! Hosting the Painter Family trains, the decorations and the holiday-themed displays were made possible through the efforts of the La Plata Historic Preservation Commission.



The museum also featured holiday-themed displays created just for the occasion. Lights crisscrossed the ceiling as they once did throughout the streets of La Plata in the 1960's--our homage to the lights many of us still remember seeing as children. Several framed displays imagined Shop Small Saturday in La Plata as it would have been between 1900 and 1924. Maryland Independent ads from R. P. Horney's Restaurant, P. S. Bowling Store, W. L. Dement's Store, J. M. Cochrane's Store, The Bowling Hotel, Bailey's Market, Myer Rubin, The Matthews-Howard Company, W. S. Yates, Robert V. Norris, J. Thompson, Lloyd's Corner, T. R. Farrall's and J. L. Edlavich were displayed as collages mixed with pictures of some of the establishments that were once fixtures of La Plata's business community.



Parents seeking a break from the crowds around the Painter Family display found letters to Santa Claus written by local children in the 1909-1921 period. The heartwarming notes to Santa asked for items ranging from simple shoes and socks and hair ribbons to more ambitious requests for tricycles, doll carriages, and fireworks. The letters appeared for a number of years in the Maryland Independent and are a rare treat as the paper often ceased publication in the colder months because the ink would freeze on the presses.



A white Christmas poster showed La Plata's Christmas light aglow during a holiday snowstorm. A wispy-like image of a train passing by and the water tower star shining through the heavily falling snow are reminders of how beautiful La Plata is around

Christmas. Rounding out the new displays were two posters of Christmas Greetings from area businesses published in the Maryland Independent in 1930 and corresponding New Year greetings for 1931. Sharp eyed viewers might have noticed greetings from the Oriole Inn, B. B. L Feed Store, La Plata Paint and Hardware Company and the La Plata Beer Company. The Chic Filet Santa Cow also made an appearance, much to the delight of children who received high-fives and candy canes. The La Plata Historic Preservation Commission is also pleased to have the museum's red caboose lit up for the holidays too, thanks in no small part to Chris Wagnon, who donated enough lights to get the job done.

We hope everyone enjoyed the museum's 2019 opening season and look forward to expanded La Plata history exhibits and our own semi-permanent train display in 2020. Building improvements needed to display exhibits and funding for research and museum development are made possible in part thanks to a Seed Grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium.

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

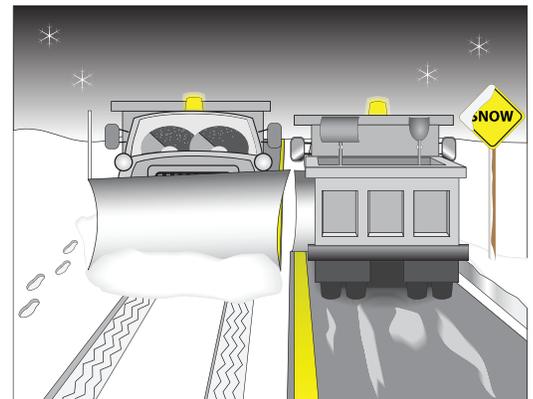
- Salt distribution will be determined based on the following criteria and priority:
 - ♦ Main Collector Streets
 - ♦ Streets with Hills
 - ♦ Difficult intersections – stop lights and stop signs
 - ♦ Major residential roads
- Cul-de-sacs and courts may not receive salt treatment

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.

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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.

Problems with Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. The runoff picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt/sediment that can harm our rivers, streams, lakes, and coastal waters.

To protect these resources, communities, construction companies, industries, and others, use stormwater controls, known as best management practices (BMPs). These BMPs filter out pollutants and/or prevent pollution by controlling it at its source.

The NPDES stormwater program regulates some stormwater discharges from three potential sources: municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), construction activities, and industrial activities. Operators of these sources might be required to obtain an NPDES permit before they can discharge stormwater. This permitting mechanism is designed to prevent stormwater runoff from washing harmful pollutants into local surface waters.

Population growth and the development of urban/urbanized areas are major contributors to the amount of pollutants in the runoff as well as the volume and rate of runoff from impervious surfaces. Together, they can cause changes in hydrology and water quality that result in habitat modification and loss, increased flooding, decreased aquatic biological diversity, and increased sedimentation and erosion. The benefits of effective stormwater runoff management can include:

- protection of wetlands and aquatic ecosystems,
- improved quality of receiving waterbodies,
- conservation of water resources,
- protection of public health, and
- flood control.

Traditional stormwater management approaches that rely on peak flow storage have generally not targeted pollutant reduction and can exacerbate problems associated with changes in hydrology and hydraulics.

[Above information excerpted from: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>]

To help combat the pollution caused by rain runoff and to meet the requirements from the State of Maryland and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Town of La Plata submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) in 2018 to be designated as a new permittee with the Maryland Phase II NPDES program. To meet the increased requirements for new permit, the Town of La Plata has needed to expand in several areas to meet the new demands placed on the Town by this new permit. Such areas include increased funding, engineering services, manhours, technical service, etc. The Town will be continuing to work toward implementing all the aspects of the Phase II NPDES over the coming years.

More information about the Maryland MS4 and Phase II programs can be found at: https://mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/StormwaterManagementProgram/Pages/NPDES_MS4_New.aspx

PRIOR EVENTS

FALL FESTIVAL

The Town's Annual Fall Festival was held on Sunday October 13th. Lots of crab cakes, pizza, coffee, ice cream and hot dogs were enjoyed by many and the craft/business vendors displayed their products for sale. Funkzilla entertained the crowd with their hits and the children enjoyed decorating pumpkins at the art tent. The announcement of the 14th Annual Festival of Scarecrow winners wrapped up the event – thanks to all the businesses and organizations that participated.

14th Annual Scarecrow Festival Winners (sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of La Plata)

Fictional

1. Port Tobacco Players
2. De Lux Electric
3. Grace Lutheran Church & School

Career

1. For the Record
2. Baldus Real Estate
3. First Insurance Group of MD

Sports

1. Potomac Early Learning Center
2. Meredith Management

Charles County Proud

1. Mudd, Mudd & Fitzgerald
2. Maryland Partners Bank
3. Smiles Media

The People's Choice Award goes to Port Tobacco Players.



HARVEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

Everyone had a spooky good time at the Harvest Halloween Party on Friday, October 18th.



Photos from Neighborhood Event Grant Awards

Phoenix Run Block Party September 28th



Faith Temple Baptist Church Trunk or Treat October 26th



Continued on page 14

PRIOR EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)



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 10th.



Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering



The Town of La Plata kicked off holiday season with the Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering on Sunday, December 8th. Thank you to Danin's Showbiz Boutique, La Plata High School A Cappella group and MadriGals from the Chesapeake Choral Arts Society for providing the holiday music. AR Workshop and The Balloon Nerd entertained the children with crafts and balloon hats. Always Fun Photo Booths was on hand to capture memories made at the event. Many enjoyed a horse drawn carriage ride by Suttler Post Farm along La Grange Ave. The event was topped off with the lighting of the Town's new 26-foot Christmas tree. Mayor Jeannine James led the tree lighting ceremony along with the help of a very special visitor delivered by the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department – Santa Claus! Thank you to all who attended and volunteered at the event!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apply for the Neighborhood Event Mini-Grant today

Is your neighborhood interested in organizing an event like a block party or cook out to bring your community together? If so then help is here. 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 6, 2020. Grant applications are available for download at www.townofaplata.org or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at cwilson@townofaplata.org or (301) 934-8421.

On your mark, get set, GO!



It's time to start training for the Town of La Plata Bed Races. Bed Races take place on Saturday, April 25th 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. There are 14 team slots available!

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 is deadline is April 10 or until the 14 team slots are full. For more information or to register for the Bed Races, contact Colleen Wilson at (301) 934-8421 or cwilson@townofaplata.org. Participation form is available on the Town's website www.townofaplata.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@townofaplata.org.

Upcoming Events

The 2020 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@townofaplata.org.

Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny

Monday, April 13th: 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 13th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bring the kids for sweet treat, crafts and visit with the Easter Bunny.



Celebrate La Plata

Saturday April 25th: 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 25th. 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!

**Celebrate
LA PLATA!**

TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

NEVER MISS ANOTHER TOWN EVENT
PULL OUT THE CALENDAR ON PAGES 7, 8 & 9. PUT ME
ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR FOR EASY REFERENCE.

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

**Celebrate La Plata
Saturday, April 25th
12 PM to 4 PM
La Plata Town Hall**

Free Family Fun!

Craft & Food Vendors

Face Painting

Kids' Art Activities

Moon bounces



La Plata Bed Races start at 3 PM!