

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

HAPPY SPRING! What a great time of year! The days get warmer and the evenings are longer. Many of us are inclined to spend more time outdoors with our family and friends. This is also the time when La Plata comes alive. Springtime brings more people walking around town, parks are bustling with kids and sports and our Town is busy with our many events. Great things are happening in La Plata!

LA PLATA IS RECOGNIZED AS FIRST BIRD CITY IN MARYLAND!

We are so excited to be recognized as Maryland's first official Bird City. This designation is an acknowledgment of our commitment to enhance the town's environment for birds and educate the public about the interactions between birds and people and about the contribution's birds make to a healthy community.

OFFICIAL BIRD OF LA PLATA: On February 24, 2020, The Town Council unanimously voted to adopt the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) as La Plata's official bird!

Three Fun Facts about our Town Bird, the Purple Martin: **1.** Purple Martins are the largest species of swallow found in North America. **2.** Adult Purple Martins will usually return to the same colonial nest site year after year. **3.** Purple Martins rarely

Continued on page 2

Purple Martin, Bird City and Arbor Day Celebration

Sunday, April 19, 2020, 1 PM – 3 PM
La Plata Train Station Museum
101 Kent Avenue

Did You Know that the Purple Martin is the Official Bird of the Town of La Plata?



For the last few years, the Purple Martin has returned from its southern migratory journey by April 17. Come celebrate their return, meet our passionate Purple Martin "housekeepers," and learn about this fascinating flyer. We will also celebrate the Town of La Plata becoming Maryland's first Bird City and provide information about National Arbor Day, coming up on April 24.

Photo credit: Karen Wiles, "Purple Martin Twilight," <https://pixels.com/featured/purple-martin-twilight-karen-wiles.html>



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

nest in natural cavities; instead they nest almost exclusively in man-made housing. No other bird is as dependent on man as the Purple Martin is for their nesting requirement. (check out the bird houses near Port Tobacco Players).

STAY LOCAL THIS SPRING BREAK:

Spring Break may be shorter this year but have no fear; there are plenty of things to do locally and at home.

- 1. Plant a garden.** If you don't have the space, small pots can be used without taking up too much space.
- 2. Explore our library.** Virtually travel to our National Parks; be mesmerized by an interactive story time or come hangout with fellow artists and draw/color in a laid-back environment.
- 3. Take a hike.** Visit our beautiful Tilghman Lake, bring a picnic, and take a scenic hike around the Lake.
- 4. Ride a Bike.** The Indian Head Rail Trail is a 13-mile bike trail that runs from Indian Head to White Plains. The IHRT offers riders a unique opportunity to enjoy some of Southern Maryland's most undeveloped natural areas. You can find interpretive signs along the Indian Head Rail Trail, which highlight various natural habitat areas and wildlife species, and you might also discover beaver dams, bald eagles, wild turkey, white-tailed deer and herons.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Some of the best events to attend in La Plata combine small town fun with music, crafts, local talent, and fascinating history.

PURPLE MARTIN, BIRD CITY & ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION: Join us, Sunday, April 19th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the La Plata Train Station Museum as our Town celebrates the return of our migrating Purple Martins. There will be passionate Purple Martin "housekeepers" on hand to educate us all about these fascinating birds. We will also celebrate our recent designation as Maryland's 1st Bird City and provide information about National Arbor Day!

CELEBRATE LA PLATA: Saturday, April 25th we will be holding our 18th annual Celebrate La Plata day. There will be live music; the Bed Races; crafts and food vendors; and much more. This is a Family Fun event for all to enjoy!

SPRING SHOP SMALL: The La Plata Business Association will be hosting their Annual Shop La Plata Spring Celebration Event in the Downtown District of La Plata on May 2nd. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to enjoy a little Spring shopping while supporting some of our local businesses!

SUMMER CONCERTS: The Summer Concert Series is starting off with a bang this year! On Friday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm Southern Maryland's own Country Singer, ROBBIE BOOTHE will kick off this season! Some of the other incredible talent includes several US Military bands, Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Show; Trilogy and Taboo – just to name a few. Closing out this year's series will be no other than country music sensation JACKSON DEAN!

FARMER'S MARKET: Opening Day for the Farmer's Market is SATURDAY, APRIL 18th. Our incredible Market Manager, Kelly Phipps, is back again this year and has recruited some new faces for our Farmer's Market. Stop by, support our local farmers and vendors, and pick up some fresh fruits, vegetables, home-baked goods, jams, jellies, pickled vegetables, local spirits, and home-made crafts. The market will also feature some awesome food trucks!

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!

The 2020 Census count is underway! Did you know....

EVERYONE COUNTS. The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

IT'S ABOUT FAIR REPRESENTATION. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

IT'S IN THE CONSTITUTION. The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

IT'S ABOUT REDISTRICTING. After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

IT'S ABOUT \$675 BILLION. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

TAKING PART IS YOUR CIVIC DUTY. Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say, "I COUNT!"

LA PLATA BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES:

Is your business celebrating a milestone anniversary? Let us know. We would love to publicly thank you for doing business in our Town and recognize your accomplishments. Send an email to jjames@townofaplata.org with all the details.

THE TOWN OF LA PLATA NEEDS A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS:

Do you have a couple of free hours each month and are looking for a way to give back to your community? Why not consider serving on one of our several committees? We are looking for people to serve on our newest committees: Keep La Plata Beautiful or La Plata Main Street Committee. Play a role in shaping the future of La Plata – 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. If you are interested, please let me know. *Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.* 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!

Together, we can ensure
that our community receives the
resources it needs.

United States®
Census
2020

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

**Friday, April 10, 2020
(Good Friday)**

No Trash or Yard Waste pick up
(Trash pick up 4/09/20)

**Monday, May 25, 2020
(Memorial Day)**

No Trash or Yard Waste pick up
(Trash pick up 5/26/20)

Town Receives Award

The Town of La Plata was awarded its first ever Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its fiscal year 2020 budget. This award represents a significant achievement by the Town's Finance Department. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the adopted budget had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. A copy of



the adopted fiscal year 2020 budget can be found on the Town's website.

TESTING OF EARLY WARNING DEVICES/SIRENS



The Town of La Plata will test early warning devices/sirens on May 2, 2020 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.

Reminder: Location of Trash and Recycling Containers on Your Pickup Day



117-7 - Location of containers.

Unless otherwise provided by the Chief Executive Officer, where alleys are used by the refuse collectors, containers shall be placed on or within six (6) feet of the alley line in such a position as not to intrude upon the traveled portion of the alley. Where streets are used by the refuse collectors, containers shall be placed adjacent to and back to the curb or adjacent to and back to the ditch or street lines if there is no curb, at such times as shall be scheduled for the collection of refuse. As soon as practicable after such containers have been emptied, they shall be removed by the owner to within or to the rear of the premises and away from the street line until the next scheduled time for collection. Only containers provided by the Town of La Plata for mechanical collection may be stored discretely in the front or on the side of the premises. Commercial customers must locate their containers in the location designated within the approved site plan.

(Ord. No. 11-14, § 1, 9-27-2011)

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 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:	Trash will be picked up on:
Friday, April 10, 2020	Thursday, April 9, 2020
Monday, May 25, 2020	Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Recycling Collection

Recycling for Wednesday, May 27, 2020 will be picked up as scheduled

Yard Waste Pick Up Schedule Adjustment

There will be no Yard Waste pick up on:
Friday, April 10, 2020
Monday, May 25, 2020

Special Pick Up

Monday, April 6, 2020
Monday, May 4, 2020
Monday, June 1, 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://townofaplata.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@townofaplata.org with any inquiries.



From the Desk of the Chief

Spring is upon us. As the weather warms up, more of our residents will be out on foot in the community. Thus, there will be more pedestrian activity on sidewalks, neighborhood streets, and crosswalks. Both drivers and pedestrians are responsible for the safety of those afoot. Here are some pedestrian safety tips:

Be Visible

Make sure you're visible to drivers at all times and make eye contact with them whenever possible. This is especially important at night, in low-light conditions such as dusk or dawn or in inclement weather. According to NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, 32% of all pedestrian fatalities occur between 8:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

- Wear light colored or reflective clothing at night and bright colored clothing during the day.
- Stay in well-lit areas, especially when crossing the street.
- If possible, make eye contact with drivers in stopped vehicles to ensure they see you before you cross in front of them.

Stay Alert – Avoid Distractions

Distractions are everywhere today and becoming more and more difficult to avoid. Remember that, as a pedestrian, your eyes and ears are your best tools for keeping safe. Stay alert and watch out.

- Put down your phone. Smartphones and handheld electronic devices are a daily part of life, but they take your eyes off of the road and distract your attention.
- Don't wear headphones. Your ears will tell you a lot about what is happening around you – be sure to use them.

Follow the Rules

- Know and follow all traffic rules, signs and signals. You need to be aware of the rules vehicles around you must follow to properly anticipate what drivers will do. This will help increase your safety.
- Never assume a driver will give you the right of way. Make every effort to make eye contact with the driver of a stopped or approaching vehicle before entering the roadway.

Walk in Safe Places

- Use crosswalks when crossing the street. If a crosswalk is unavailable, be sure to find the well-lit spot on the road to cross and wait for a long enough gap in traffic to make it safely across the street.
- Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. If a sidewalk is not available, be sure to walk on the far side of the road facing traffic. This will help increase your visibility to drivers.
- Avoid walking along highways or other roadways where pedestrians are prohibited.

Avoid Alcohol Consumption

- Almost half of all traffic crashes resulting in pedestrian casualties involve alcohol consumption. Surprisingly, 34% of that total was on the part of the pedestrian. Alcohol impairs your decision-making skills, physical reflexes and other abilities just as much on your feet as it does behind the wheel.

Here are some pedestrian safety tips for drivers:

Look out for pedestrians at all times. When you are operating a vehicle, you have accepted a heightened responsibility for other people on the road. Safety is a two-way street. Often, pedestrians—especially younger ones—are not where they should be or where you would expect them to be. Remain vigilant at all times.

Be Alert

- Follow posted speed limits at all times, especially in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic. This is even more important in areas that have lower speed limits, such as school zones and neighborhood streets where pedestrians may appear suddenly.
- Overall visibility is limited in bad weather conditions and poorly lit areas. Not only is it more difficult for drivers to see oncoming pedestrians, it also is harder for pedestrians to see you. Make sure your lights are on and you use your signals properly. Use extra caution in these circumstances.
- Be mindful of pedestrians when pulling into and out of driveways – especially if you are backing up. Pedestrians can easily enter your path without your knowledge.

Crosswalks

- Always yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- When approaching a crosswalk, reduce your speed and be prepared to stop.
- When you are stopped at a crosswalk, allow enough room between your vehicle and the crosswalk so other drivers can see the pedestrians as well.
- Do not pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They have stopped to allow pedestrians to pass or make sure the way is clear.

Do Not Drive While Impaired

- Alcohol and drugs impair your reaction time, reflexes, decision-making skills and overall cognitive functions. Getting behind the wheel while impaired puts everyone in danger.

See you on the road!

Chief Carl Schinner

In the Community



Chief Carl Schinner, and Captain Chris Becker with residents at the Dorchester Community Center Grand Opening.



La Plata Police Department newly acquired Police Mobile Command Post



Lt. Michael Payne assisting a shopper during Shop with a Cop day

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – TOWN OF LA PLATA BUDGET

Calendar of events for the preparation and adoption of the Town of La Plata Budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

DATE	EVENT
Saturday, February 1, 2020	Council/Staff Budget Retreat.
Monday, February 3, 2020	Budget worksheets issued to Department Directors.
Friday, February 28, 2020	Deadline for all Department Directors to submit FY 2021 budget worksheets to Town Manager.
Monday, March 2, 2020 – Friday, March 13, 2020	Town Manager and Town Treasurer meet with Department Directors to align their budgets with service priorities and available resources.
Friday, April 3, 2020	Town Manager transmits Proposed Budget FY 2021 to the Council.
Wednesday, April 8, 2020	Publication of notice of public hearing on Constant Yield Tax Rate tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2020.
Monday, April 13, 2020	Work Session: Budget discussion focusing on Operating Funds.
Monday, April 20, 2020	Work Session: Budget discussion focusing on Enterprise Funds.
Monday, April 27, 2020	Public Hearing and Public Comment on Constant Yield Tax. Introduction of Ordinance for FY 2021 Tax Rates.
Monday, May 11, 2020	Work Session: Discussion of fee schedule. Special Meeting: Adoption of Ordinance for FY 2021 Tax Rates
Tuesday, May 26, 2020	Business Meeting: 1. Introduction of Ordinance adopting the FY 2021 Fee Schedule. 2. Introduction of Ordinance adopting the FY 2021 Financial Plan Budget 3. Public Hearing and Public Comment on FY 2021 Fee Schedule. 4. Public Hearing and Public Comment on FY 2021 Financial Plan Budget.
Monday, June 8, 2020	Special Meeting: Adoption of Ordinances for FY 2021 Fee Schedule, and Financial Plan Budget.

Train Station Museum and Caboose Renovations Begin

La Plata's historic train station and caboose are getting some much needed renovation work this spring in preparation for the upcoming 2020 town museum season which begins April 25. The station interior is getting a new coat of paint and refinished floors along with minor repairs to fix broken interior trim and inside water damage. Upgraded smoke detectors and new exit signs are being installed to enhance the safety of museum patrons. Outside the station is getting new boards to replace water damaged wood, minor repairs to doors and windows and a thorough cleaning. Warped and splintering boards and lattice on the deck are being replaced. A new coat of stain will be applied to protect and weatherproof the entire deck.

Perhaps the most significant exterior enhancement will be the return of gutters to direct water away from the deck and prevent water damage to wood at the base of the station. Better management of rainwater will increase the longevity of the repair work and reduce future maintenance costs. The Historic Preservation Commission recommended and the town approved using half-round gutters similar to the type seen in photos of the station taken in the early 1900's. While a true restoration of the station to its original 1870's appearance is not feasible, the HPC is working with the town to keep as much of the historic character of the building intact as possible during the renovations.

Work on the caboose will not be quite as visible, in the short run, as the train station's facelift. The caboose is going through a series of evaluations and consultations in advance of beginning renovation

work. Past efforts have been devoted to stabilizing the caboose and trying to prevent further deterioration mainly by keeping it painted. More thorough work is being planned to bring the caboose back as close to its original 1940's operational appearance as possible. Much needed repairs to rotting window frames and vandalism damage to the doors, stabilizing rust and dealing with crumbling interior paint are in the works.

With the generous support of a Seed Grant by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Destination Southern Maryland program and matching funds from the town, the Historic Preservation Commission is planning significant changes to the museum displays once the station renovations are complete. Removal of the small train table and the installation of free standing partitions in the south room will create new space for displays. New exhibits are in development and newly acquired artifacts will be ready by the planned April opening. The larger north room will see a totally new electric train layout with more exhibits and enhancements to existing displays already in development. The caboose will also be seeing significant exhibit upgrades to help visitors better understand its features. Period artifacts will be added to provide a greater sense of being on a working caboose in the 1940's.

The Historic Preservation Commission welcomes volunteers who would like to lend a hand or their expertise in researching and preparing exhibits or in restoration projects. The Commission also seeks photos (or copies), illustrations, artifacts and items for exhibits relating to La Plata's history and the history of the Pope's Creek line. Items may be offered as gifts or placed on loan with the museum for temporary display. Please contact the La Plata Town Hall for more information.

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

'Tis the (Market) Season!



Spring is coming, which means that the Farmers Market season is on its way! The La Plata Farmers Market opens for its 42nd season on April 4, 2020, with farmers, food trucks, and everything in between. Opening Day will feature Art Takeover, sponsored by La Plata's own Shop 53, and we're expecting a visit from Pinch and the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs. We'll be open 8-2 on Saturdays, 8-3 on Wednesdays, April 18 – November 28. Come see us on the parking lot behind the Charles County Courthouse!

1 2 3 4

Yard Waste Pick Up Household Hazardous Waste

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick Up, please call by 4:00 pm on 4/3
Planning Commission Meeting; 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
Trash Pick Up 4/10
Town Hall Closed
Good Friday
No Yard Waste Pick Up
No Trash Pick Up
Trash Pick Up on 4/9



12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Yard Waste Pick Up
Council Work Session; 6:00 pm
Yard Waste Pick Up
Farmers Market opens; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm*

EASTER



19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Bird City & Arbor Day Celebration; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; Train Station Museum
Yard Waste Pick Up
Council Work Session; 6:00 pm
Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm*
Yard Waste Pick Up
Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Celebrate La Plata; 12-4:00 pm

26 27 28 29 30

Yard Waste Pick Up
Council Business Meeting; 7:00 pm
Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
*note new hours

MAY 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1		2	
							Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Household Hazardous Waste LPBA Spring Shop La Plata		
						Yard Waste Pick Up			
3	4	5		6	7		8		9
	Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up; call by 5/1	Planning Commission Meeting; 6:00 pm	Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm			Yard Waste Pick Up	Beautification Commission Meeting; 10:00 am	Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	
10	11	12		13	14		15		16
 MOTHER'S DAY	Yard Waste Pick Up Council Work Session; 6:00 pm	Crime Watch Council; 7:00 pm	Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 7:30 am Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 am				Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	
17	18	19		20	21		22		23
	Yard Waste Pick Up Council Work Session; 6:00 pm		Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm				Yard Waste Pick Up Splash Pad Open Concert: Robbie Boothe Band; 7:00 pm	Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm	
24/31		25		27	28		29		30
	Memorial Day Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up No Yard Waste Pick Up Trash Pick Up will be 5/26	Council Business Meeting; 7:00 pm Trash Pick Up from 5/25	Recycling as normal Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 3:00 pm				Yard Waste Pick Up Concert: Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano show; 7:00 pm	Farmers Market; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY; 11:00 am	

JUNE 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

Yard Waste Pick up
Special Pick up; call
before 5/29

2

Planning Commission
Meeting; 6:00 pm



3

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

4

5

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert: Pork Donut;
7:00 pm



6

Farmers Market;
8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Household Hazardous
Waste

7

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

8

Crime Watch Council
Meeting; 7:00 pm

9



10

Farmers Market;
8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting;
7:30 am
Design Review Board
Meeting; 9:00 am

11



12

Yard Waste Pick Up
Beautification Commission
Meeting; 10:00 am
Concert: Trilogy; 7:00 pm



13

Farmers Market;
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

14

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

15

16



17

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

18

19

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert; Bradley Turner
Band; 7:00 pm



20

Farmers Market;
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

21



FATHER'S DAY

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

22

Kids Show: "Blue Sky
Puppets"; 10:00 am

23



24

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

25

26

Yard Waste Pick Up
Concert: US Air Force
Band Max Impact;
7:00 pm



27

Farmers Market;
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

28

29

30

2020 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council of the Town of La Plata 2020 Meeting Schedule

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

JANUARY – Alternate Schedule	
Work Sessions	Monday, January 13, 2020 Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, January 27, 2020
MARCH	
Work Sessions	Monday, March 9, 2020 Monday, March 16, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, 23, 2020
MAY – Alternate Schedule	
Work Sessions	Monday, May 11, 2020 Monday, May 18, 2020
Business Meeting	Tuesday, May 26, 2020
JULY	
Work Sessions	Monday, July 13, 2020 Monday, July 20, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, July 27, 2020
SEPTEMBER	
Work Sessions	Monday, September 14, 2020 Monday, September 21, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, September 28, 2020
NOVEMBER – Alternate Schedule	
Work Sessions	Monday, November 9, 2020 Monday, November 16, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, November 23, 2020

FEBRUARY – Alternate Schedule	
Work Sessions	Monday, February 10, 2020 Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, February 24, 2020
APRIL	
Work Sessions	Monday, April 13, 2020 Monday, April 20, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, April 27, 2020
JUNE – MML Conference 6/28-7/1	
Work Session	Monday, June 8, 2020 Monday, June 15, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, June 22, 2020
AUGUST	
Work Sessions	Monday, August 10, 2020 Monday, August 17, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, August 24, 2020
OCTOBER	
Work Sessions	Monday, October 12, 2020 Monday, October 19, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, October 26, 2020
DECEMBER – Alternate Schedule	
Work Sessions	Monday, December 14, 2020 Monday, December 21, 2020
Business Meeting	Monday, December 21, 2020

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

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

Beautification Grants

Keep La Plata La Plata - Beautification Commission

Beautification Public Space Improvement and Community Cleanup Grant Program

The La Plata Beautification Commission started the Beautification Grant program in an effort to improve the community for our residents, visitors and businesses in 2011. Currently the grant program is being expanded and enhanced to encourage public art, native and conservation landscaping, community cleanup projects and downtown decorative signage.

Coming Soon – A new and improved application with more funding options to implement projects that improve the community! In the meantime, if you have a project idea you can keep using the old form.

Grant applications will be available for download from the Town's website, or you may get them directly from Danielle Mandley at (301) 934 – 8421 or dmandley@townoflaplata.org. Thank you for your interest in helping our community by focusing on ways to make La Plata a better place.

"Volunteers bring beauty to life"



Updates from the Parks and Recreation Commission:

"Warmer weather is finally here, and we hope La Plata residents will get outside and enjoy our town and its many parks! Whether it's a casual stroll through town, or a good run around Tilghman Lake, there are plenty of recreation options for residents! The Parks and Recreation commission recently added more exercise stations around Tilghman Lake, thanks to a grant secured by town staff. And new this season, we invite you to check out our Scavenger Hunt challenge, which can be found on the town website under "Parks." Now get out there and enjoy yourselves!"

TOWN OF LA PLATA FLYING HIGH – FIRST BIRD CITY MARYLAND!!

After many months of work the Town of La Plata submitted their application to become the first Bird City Maryland. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society helped to guide them along the way, suggesting how to fulfill the application requirements and how we can together achieve a wonderful goal - *making communities healthier for birds and people.*



What is Bird City Maryland? This is a great result coming from the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) which the Southern Maryland Audubon Society is a partner. It is a science driven, partner-based initiative that was formed a few years ago

to create a collaborative effort to conserve Maryland birds and their habitat.

Modeled after the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, bird conservation initiatives are coalitions of government agencies, nonprofits, and citizen stakeholders that combine efforts to ensure long-term health of native bird populations. The Partnership is supported by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through the federal funds from the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, and matched by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provides in-kind support by the donation of office space and resources. MBCP is led by its Director and a Steering Committee made up of individuals from government agencies and non-governmental groups.

There are many initiatives that MBCP has formed, some that you may be familiar with such as monitoring of Audubon Important Bird Areas and the Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Project. The mission of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) is to provide a unifying point of focus for bird conservation, research, and monitoring and we are grateful to be a part of such important work. Bird City Maryland is one of the latest great ideas to come from this great group.

Why is the Town of La Plata becoming a Bird City Maryland a big deal? **Bird City Maryland provides highly visible public recognition** to municipalities that understand that healthy communities are the sum of many parts, including birds. We support our communities in their efforts to protect and manage green space, educate their citizens, build and erect nesting structures, landscape with native plants, reduce threats to birds like collisions and outdoor cats, and generally make urban areas both friendlier for birds and places where people want to live and work.

We have other caring partners that will help the Town of La Plata fulfill their commitment to accomplishing their objectives, the Port Tobacco River Conservancy (the town is in the Port Tobacco river watershed) and the Conservancy for Charles County (land trusts help us protect habitat). All three of us should be able to have a great time helping to promote and educate everyone about birds and bird conservation.

What is the Town of La Plata committing too? What's the plan? The application process involved multiple categories and criteria such as habitat creation, protection and monitoring, community forest

management, limiting or removing threats to birds, public education, and annually recognizing World Migratory Bird Day. One really fun part of this is the town has an official bird of recognition, the Purple Martin! Many may not realize that the center of the town has two roosting sites that faithfully provide a haven for the Purple Martins that religiously arrive around April 17th. Mr. Winkler at La Plata Mill & Supply marks the date of their arrival and will be an avid promotor of the town bird. We look forward to involving the youth of La Plata in educating them about our town bird, and special events will be planned.

Native plants are also a focus, and the towns' new Keep La Plata Beautiful committee will promote the use of native plants in home and business landscapes through information and mini-grants. They are also working towards the goal of becoming Tree City USA and Bee City USA! You just got to love this town! What else? So many things to come – but one mandatory requirement as mentioned above are that they recognize annually World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), and recognize they already did! On October 28 the town council adopted resolution 19-21 urging all citizens to celebrate the observance of WMBD. We even jumped the gun on this one and helped the town celebrate October 13 at the Town of La Plata Fall Festival. This year's theme was Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution. Our booth was manned by Southern Maryland Audubon Society members as well as from the Port Tobacco River Conservancy. The booth was frequently visited as kids got to color various migratory birds' templates and everyone got to learn about the hazards of plastic pollution to the avian species. Visitors also received free metal reusable straws donated by our brand new town store, Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU). They too will be a great partner in all of the fun! Thanks WBU!



So - stay tuned for updates. We are going to have lots to report. In the meantime check out the town website to see they really are flying high with being Bird City Maryland. We have been added to the town website at <https://townoflaplata.org/> go to Quick Links > Bird City Maryland. They even added our Charles County Port Tobacco River Park Bald Eagle Cam!! Want your town to join in the fun? Send us an email at somdaudubon@yahoo.com and we will help map out your migratory path to join the fun and become a high flyer.

Excess Fertilizer Harms the Chesapeake Bay: Maryland's Fertilizer Law

Nutrients—primarily nitrogen and phosphorus—are key ingredients in lawn fertilizer. When it rains, excess nutrients can wash off the land and into the storm drains, streams and rivers that feed the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law helps protect the Chesapeake Bay from excess nutrients entering its waters.

Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law limits the amount of nutrients that can be applied to lawns or turf and restricts phosphorus content in lawn fertilizer. **Many Maryland soils provide all the phosphorus that established lawns need.** Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law prohibits lawn fertilizer products from containing phosphorus. Look for the middle number on a bag of fertilizer. It should be zero. The law applies only to fertilizer products labeled for use on turf—not those used in gardens. Homeowners should visit extension.umd.edu/hgic for seasonal and yearly fertilizer rates.

Answers to FAQs about Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law

QI just want my lawn to be green and lush. Does the law make it harder for me to have a nice lawn?

A Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law helps homeowners maintain healthy lawns without using unnecessary amounts of nutrients. The law spells out common sense practices that can reduce the risk of fertilizer runoff while promoting best management practices that support healthy lawns.

QIf my lawn care provider is not permitted to apply the type and amount of fertilizer I want, can I do it myself instead?

A No. Homeowners are subject to the same fertilizer application restrictions as lawn care providers.

Lawn Care Professionals Must Be Certified. Lawn care professionals hired to apply fertilizer to turf must be certified by the Maryland

Department of Agriculture or work under the direct supervision of an individual who is certified. For a published list of certified professional fertilizer applicators on its website. Lawn care pros should visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer.

Avoid Penalties: Violators are subject to civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for the first violation and \$2,000 for each subsequent violation.

Homeowners and do-it-yourselfers are required to obey fertilizer application restrictions, observe fertilizer blackout dates, and follow University of Maryland recommendations when fertilizing lawns. Follow these best management practices for a healthy lawn and healthy waterways.

- Read and follow all label directions on the fertilizer bag.
- Mow the grass high to shade out weeds.
- Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass height at each mowing.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to provide free fertilizer.
- Sharpen lawnmower blades in the spring.
- Let established lawns go dormant during the hot, dry summer months.

Phosphorus may only be applied to lawns when a soil test indicates that it is needed or when a lawn is being established, patched or renovated.

Fertilizer may not be used to de-ice walkways and driveways. **It is against the law to apply fertilizer** to sidewalks, driveways or paved surfaces. Fertilizer that lands on these surfaces must be swept back onto lawns or cleaned up.

Lawn fertilizer may not be applied between November 15 and March 1.

Turfgrass maintenance Calendar by Maryland Cooperative Extension: https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/hgic/HGIC_Pubs/lawn_pubs/HG112_Turfgrass_Maintenance_Calendars.pdf

Information above taken from MD Dept of Agriculture info sheet: Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law (https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/3C%20MD%20fertilizer%20law%20info.pdf)

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 Plan is currently being reviewed by the Maryland Department of Planning and Charles County Government. Public hearings will be scheduled in May. 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.

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.

PRIOR EVENTS

On Saturday December 14th Santa stopped by Town Hall to visit with the children at Breakfast with Santa.



Photos from Neighborhood Event Grant Award

Kings Grant Turkey 5K - November 28th



Holiday Gathering at Hawthorne Greene – December 7th

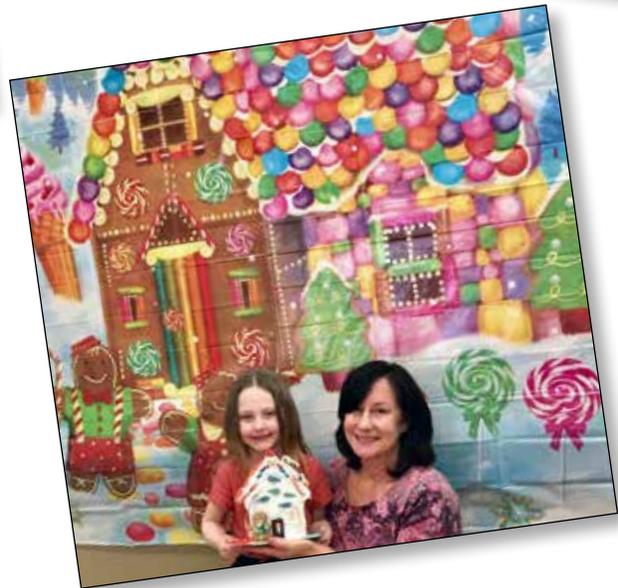


Continued on page 14

PRIOR EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Photos from Neighborhood Event Grant Award

Christ Church Holiday Gingerbread House Extravaganza – December 8th



Christmas at the Maples – December 14th



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Town of La Plata 2020 Special Events Schedule is now available. You can pick up copies of the new **Special Events brochure** at Town Hall or local businesses around town. A pdf version is available for downloading from our website. Go to www.TownofLaPlata.org and click on Events.

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.



The members of the American Legion Post 82 invite the Town of La Plata citizens to join them on Saturday May 30th at 11 AM for a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Post, 6330 Crain Highway in La Plata.

National Night Out Mini-Grant

Saturday April 25th: 12 PM to 4 PM

National Night Out (NNO) brings residents, law enforcement agencies, community groups, and businesses together to celebrate crime prevention awareness while sending a message that crime will not be tolerated in our community. Each year, on the first Tuesday in August, people across America gather in their own communities to take a stand against crime. Town of La Plata National Night Out Mini-Grant is designed to provide an opportunity for Town of La Plata residents to strengthen their neighborhoods through producing a National Night Out celebration for their community. National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

The Town of La Plata invites neighborhood associations and communities to submit the National Night Out Mini-Grant

application for review. Eligible grants will be awarded up to \$200. Deadline to submit application is June 12, 2020. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website or email Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator at cwilson@townoflaplata.org or 301-934-8421.

Summer Fun at Town Hall

The Town of La Plata will host five summer shows for kids at Town Hall. The shows are geared towards preschool and elementary age children and are approximately 45 minutes long. The shows are free and open to the public. Shows will be held outdoors on the West lawn where the Friday night concerts take place (weather permitting - shows will not be moved indoors). Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. No concessions will be available, but you are welcome to bring drinks and snacks along.

2020 Schedule

Tuesday June 23rd: 10 AM
Blue Sky Puppet Show
"Imagine This"

Tuesday July 7th: 10 AM
Marsha and the Positron

Tuesday July 21st: 10 AM
Eric Energy

Tuesday August 11th: 10 AM
Brightstar Theater
Little Red and the Big Bully Wolf

Tuesday August 18th: 10 AM
Raptor's Eye

If the show is cancelled due to the weather, we will post the announcement on the Town's website (home page and kids show page), face book page and information will be available by calling Town Hall at 301-934-8421.



Celebrate the 4th of July at Town Hall!
At La Plata Town Hall
Saturday July 4
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Hot dogs Watermelon Water slides

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.

2020 Summer Concerts

Friday May 22nd Robbie Booth
Country

Friday May 29th Bobby McKey's
Duelling Piano Show

Friday June 5th Pork Donut
Classic Rock 70s, 80s, & 90s

Friday June 12th Trilogy
*Rock, Pop, Dance, Hip Hop & Country Covers
with a twist*

Friday June 19th The Bradley Turner Band
Country/Rock

Friday June 26th US Air Force Band Max Impact
Classic/Contemporary Rock & Country

Friday July 3rd The 81 Run
Country

Friday July 10th
The Boot Leggers
Blues, Jazz, Swing, Classic Rock

Friday July 17th Taboo
*Top 40, Rock, Pop, Funk, Blues and a little
country too!*



Friday July 24th U.S. Navy Band Commodores
Jazz

Friday July 31st 257th Army Band
"The Band of the Nation's Capital"

Friday August 7th Flippin' Eyelids
Classic Rock, Modern Rock, Oldies and Dance

Friday August 14th U.S. Navy Band The Sea Chanters
Traditional choral music

Friday August 21st Funkzilla
Hits from the 60's to Modern Rock

Friday August 28th Jackson Dean & the Outsiders
Country
Final Concert start at 6 pm!

**Free family friendly
concerts at Town Hall**

**Friday Nights
May 22 - August 28
Starting at 7 PM**