

TOWN NOTES

News from La Plata Town Hall



MAYOR'S CORNER

By the time you receive this newsletter, the date for the referendum vote on the Johel Annexation (Wal-Mart development) will have been scheduled pending any further legal action that may be taken in regard to this referendum. When annexation petitions are presented, and following a vote by the Town Council, State law permits the citizens of a municipality to bring the matter to referendum if at least 20% of the registered voters demonstrate by their signature a preference to bring the matter to a vote by all registered voters. A sufficient number of registered voters in the Town of La Plata signed the petition; therefore, a vote has been scheduled.

Few in La Plata and the surrounding area have not heard something about the Johel Annexation over the past several months. Most individuals undoubtedly have taken a position for or against the annexation; the Town Council, following months of deliberation, voted 3 to 2 in favor of the annexation. Now it is time for the registered voters of La Plata to express their opinion by making a personal commitment to vote. If less than 50% of registered voters actually vote, the outcome will not truly reflect the position of the majority of our residents: it will demonstrate only the preference of those who actually voted. Please plan to cast your vote: it is your democratic right to do so and these rights should always be protected and exercised.

This April the Town of La Plata will recognize the 10th anniversary of the devastating tornado that struck our Town and our surrounding community. The recent tornado that struck Harrisburg, Illinois brings it all back so vividly. Many

Continued on page 3

Testing of Early Warning Devices/Sirens

The Town of La Plata will be testing our early warning devices/sirens on **Saturday, May 5 at approximately 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.

TORNADO SIREN MESSAGE

Twice a year, the Town of La Plata and the Charles County Emergency Operations Center test the tornado sirens located throughout Town. When there is a threat of a tornado the Charles County Emergency Operations Center sounds the Town's tornado siren. The siren is followed by a pre-recorded message to advise people in the community what to do in the event of a tornado warning. The pre-recorded message states "Attention! A tornado warning has been issued. Seek shelter now. Do not delay. Seek shelter now. Attention! A tornado warning has been issued. Seek shelter now. Do not delay. Seek shelter now." This message is used during all threats of a tornado.

When you hear the siren going off, please do not delay in seeking shelter. Get indoors, get to an interior small room or basement, and get low. It can be loud during a storm. You do not need to wait by a window or door to listen to the pre-recorded message. For some tornado tips, please visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's site at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>



Town of La Plata



Find us on
Facebook



La Plata Tornado

COUNCIL COLUMN

Councilman Joe Norris, Ward 4

This month we will be having many activities to celebrate our rebuilding and coming together as a community from the Tornado of 2002. April 28th will be the tenth anniversary of the devastating tornado that destroyed many parts of our community and took the lives of some of our citizens. We as a town will be putting on numerous activities and many organizations will be having their own celebrations and commemorations. Please look elsewhere in the newsletter and on the town website www.townofaplata.org for additional information.

I am always reinvigorated when spring arrives, it seems to put me in a happier mood. Watching the new buds on the trees and the spring flowers popping up is definitely good for my morale. As I write this we have been blessed with a mild winter for which I am grateful. My

apologies to you snow lovers because none is just right for me.

This time of year is especially busy for the Council and for the Town Management. We are working to put together our budget knowing we will have less property tax revenue this year and probably the next two years after that because of the reassessments. We are also losing again this year much of our Highway User Revenue that has always been an important part of our budget for paving and repairing of our streets and other infrastructure. We also are facing mandates from the state to with no revenue attached. One of these is dealing with Storm Water and, all the infrastructure related to it. This is a big dollar item that we must address in this budget. Staff has done a great job of pulling together a survey of Storm Water Infrastructure and who owns it. Some is on Town Property and some on private

property and others on Common Areas of subdivisions. All of this is important in figuring how to pay for the work that needs to be done and who is to do it.

Now that we are beginning our yard work, remember that pickup days for yard waste is Monday's and Friday's. Please mulch your grass clippings and place excess yard waste that can't be composted in biodegradable bags. Plastic bags are not accepted at the Charles County Landfill.

For more information about any of the town meetings or other activities go to our website (www.townofaplata.org). Our events calendar for 2012 is available under the events tab on the home page.

As always if you have any questions, comments or concerns, I may be reached by phone at (301) 934-9230 or by email at jnorris@townofaplata.org. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

YOUTH SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

Purpose: The purpose of this program is to expose La Plata youth to meaningful employment opportunities within a variety of departments of the Town. The program provides youth with paid work experience to develop their readiness for work and promote interest in public service careers. Work assignments are intended to be motivating, help with career considerations, assist in developing good work habits, and help promote the Town of La Plata. A more specific position description is available on the Town's website under employment.

Requirements: La Plata residents are encouraged to apply. The program is designed for students entering their junior or senior year of high school or enrolled in college. All applicants will be required to submit the following when applying: Town application (may be picked up at Town Hall or downloaded from Town website www.townofaplata.org) resume listing previous experience

(educational or job related), special projects you have been involved in, clubs or organizations you are a member, a cover letter expressing your interest in the position, for applicants under 18 written permission from parents or guardians, and provide a Work permit available through their school Guidance Office.

Specifics: Participants will receive \$7.25 per hour. Hours will vary from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. based on work assignment from department to department. Work days will be 4-5 days a week at 4-5 hours per day not to exceed 20 hours per week. Employment will begin Monday, July 2 and continue through August 17, 2012. All required application documents will be due on or before April 30, 2012 to Town Hall, Attn: Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager, 305 Queen Anne Street, La Plata, MD 20646. Qualified applicants will go through an interview process to select.

New Commercial Building Permits – issued 1/1/12-2/29/12

Charles County Rescue Squad Addition – 2 Calvert Street

Exxon Dash In – 6670 Crain Highway

Three Brothers – 13 Shining Willow Way

Studio Three Flowers –
9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 105

Commercial Occupancy Permits – issued 1/1/12-2/29/12

Exxon Dash In – 6670 Crain Highway

Servants of Christ Ministry Church –
103 Centennial Street, Suite 207

Rivers End Marine Supplies – 30
Shining Willow Way

Children's Learning Tree – 13 North
Maple Avenue, Suite 106

Chipotle – 105C Drury Drive

Studio Three Flowers –
9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 105

Century 21 New Millennium Training
Room – 9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite
201

\$500 Beautification Grant

The Beautification Commission implemented the *Beautification Commission Grant Program* to encourage residents, Home Owners Associations, school projects, scout groups, civic organizations, businesses, and other community members to help “beautify” our town. If you have a project idea that will improve the appearance, cleanliness or reduce current maintenance needs please return the *Beautification*

Grant Application by the May 7, 2012 deadline to Danielle Mandley via fax (301) 934-5724 or email dmandley@townoflaplata.org, applications may also be delivered by mail or in person to 305 Queen Anne Street. Applications are available on the Town website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org>. Please call (301) 934-8421 if you have any questions.



CONSERVATION MINI-GRANTS

Help make La Plata a better place for you and the environment. In order to help turn some of your ideas on helping our environment into reality, offers Conservation Mini-Grants. Several grants of up to \$500 for projects that positively benefits La Plata environmentally are available for the May 7, 2012 application deadline.

Find a way to inspire action, educate the community, or directly benefit our environment. This is a great outlet for Home Owner Associations, school projects, scout groups, civic organizations,

individuals, businesses, and other community members to do something that benefits you, the Town, and the environment. Grant applications are available for download from the Town's website, or you may get them directly from Town Manager Daniel Mears at (301) 934-8421 or dmears@townoflaplata.org. Successful projects will receive up to \$500 to help implement the idea. Thank you for your interest in helping our community and the Town can help you make that happen.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

**Good Friday
Memorial Day**

**Friday, April 6, 2012
Monday, May 28, 2012**

If you have a **water or sewer emergency** after hours, call (301)934-8421 and follow the instructions given to report your emergency. The automated response system will alert the appropriate department to respond to you.

TOWN OF LA PLATA OFFICIALS

Mayor: Roy G. Hale

Council:

Wayne Winkler Ward 1
C. Keith Back Ward 2
Paddy Mudd Ward 3
Joseph W. Norris Ward 4

Town Manager:
Daniel J. Mears

Treasurer: Robert W. Oliphant

Assistant Town Manager:

Michelle D. Miner

Town Clerk: Danielle Mandley

Project Manager: Steven F. Schroeder

Police Chief: Cassin B. Gittings

Director of Planning and Community

Development: David M. Jenkins

Director of Operations: Robert F. Stahl, Jr.

Director of Public Works:

Jeffrey S. Garner

Senior Planner: Theresa C. Dent

Manager of Inspections: James Q. Yates

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

MAYOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

positive events have occurred in the past ten years that demonstrated the resilience and determination of our local residents and business establishments in the rebirth of our Town; accordingly, an appropriate ceremony is highly justified. Throughout the month of April you will notice signs in various parts of the Town depicting before and after photographs of buildings and surrounding areas. Saturday, April 28th, will be a day filled with events that I trust most will want to attend. The day will include attractions for all ages and a bed race sponsored by the Charles County Chamber of Commerce. Mark your calendars now and please plan to be part of this special day.

The Town Council has already commenced deliberations concerning the Town budget for the next fiscal year, commencing on July 1. The National economy together with the financial situation of our State and County does not present many favorable trends. The State of Maryland usurped most of the highway user funds that municipalities receive for road repairs, in the current fiscal year, and it appears the State is ready to do so once again in the next fiscal period. With lower revenues due to reduced property values and available funding from other governmental agencies, it will be a difficult year but one the Council is prepared to address.

Following a very mild winter, we are all looking forward to spring. Spring brings many things but one is the start of our Friday night concert series. Some of the bands that have been currently scheduled are listed on the Town's web page. Check it out and plan to join us on the lawn of Town Hall as often as possible.

As your Mayor, I will always be interested in your comments, both favorable and critical. You may reach me at Town Hall (301) 934-8421 or at home (301) 934-4850.

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Household hazardous waste collection



CHARLES COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION

will resume in April on the first Saturday of each month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of the Department of Public Works building, located at 10430 Audie Lane, off of Radio Station Road in La Plata. Household hazardous waste collection is a contracted service and items cannot be accepted when the contractor is not on site.

Items accepted free of charge include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, paint, cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, batteries, expired prescription drugs, and other poisons that are around your house. Please keep the materials in their original containers whenever possible, and bring them to the

collection site in cardboard boxes to ease unloading.

For more information, call the Charles County Department of Public Facilities, Environmental Resources Division at (301) 932-3599.

Yard Waste Pick Up

Residential yard waste pickups will only take place on Monday and Fridays. Containers of yard waste ONLY – leaves, grass and shrub clippings, brush or branches may be put out on Mondays and Fridays. The containers must be marked “Yard Waste”. Brush or branches must be bundled, weigh no more than 50lbs. per bundle, and the branches may not be larger than 4 feet long. *Plastic bags are not allowed – if you bag yard waste you must use paper bags.*

Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

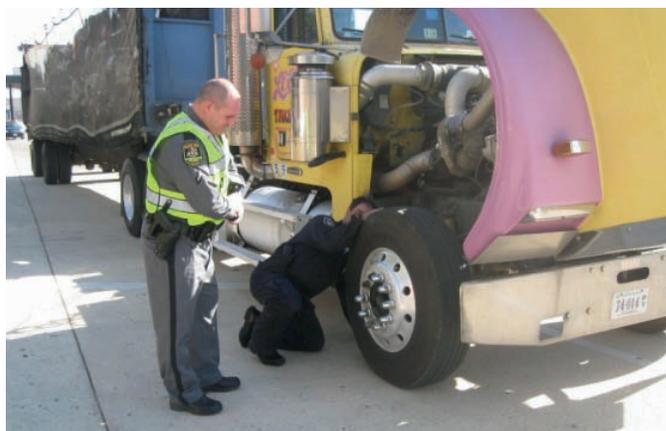
If your regular trash collection day is:

Friday, April 6, 2012
Monday, May 28, 2012

Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, April 5, 2012
Tuesday, May 29, 2012

TRUCK INSPECTIONS



Standing is Cpl. Butka with the Maryland Department of Transportation Police Department and Cpl. Harold Cunningham of the La Plata Police Department performing a truck inspection. Inspections are conducted to keep the drivers in compliance with Federal Transportation Regulations. Inspectors

check for safety violations, mechanical issues, and structural integrity. Cpl. Cunningham is a Level One Certified Inspector and often assists other agencies with inspections. As a Level One Certified Inspector Cpl. Cunningham is not only certified anywhere in the United States but also in Mexico and Canada.



The Mary H. Matula Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will host a silent auction on April 21, 2012 from 5-8pm at the school. There will be a dinner hour from 5-6pm, and the silent auction will be open from 5-8pm. The community is invited to attend. All proceeds will benefit the school. For more information, contact MatulaPTO@gmail.com.

APRIL 2012

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

Yard Waste Pick Up

2

Special Pick Up
(call Town Hall by 4:00 p.m. Fri., March 30)

3

Planning Commission Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

4

Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m.
Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:30 p.m.

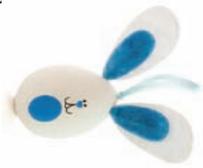
5

Town Hall Closed
No Yard Waste Pick Up
No Trash Pick Up (will pick up 4/5)

6

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

8



Easter

9

Yard Waste Pick Up
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny

10

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

11

Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 5:00 p.m.

12

Yard Waste Pick Up

13

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

14

15

Beautification Commission Meeting; 4:00 p.m.
Yard Waste Pick Up

16

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

17

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

18

Yard Waste Pick Up

19

Yard Waste Pick Up

20

Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Matula School Silent Auction; 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

21



22



Yard Waste Pick Up

23

Mayor and Council Regular meeting; 7:00 p.m.

24

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

25

Yard Waste Pick Up

26

ANS Gala Waldorf Jaycees; 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Yard Waste Pick Up

27

Farmers Market; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Celebrate La Plata; 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
See page 7 of this newsletter for all the activities

28

29

Yard Waste Pick Up

30

2012 Special Events Calendar

The Town of La Plata 2012 Special Events Schedule is now available. You can pick up copies of the new **Special Events brochure** at Town Hall or from merchants around town. A pdf version is available for downloading from our website. Go to www.TownofLaPlata.org and click on Events.

While you're there, be sure to check out the schedule for the Town of La Plata **Summer Concert Series**. You'll find a complete run down of bands scheduled to perform, every Friday night starting the last Friday in May and continuing through the last Friday in September.

MAY 2012

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Design Review Board
Meeting; 9:00 a.m.
Planning Commission
meeting; 7:00 p.m.

2
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Crime Watch Council
Meeting; 7:30 p.m.

3

4
Yard Waste Pick Up

5
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Early Warning Device
Testing; 10:00 a.m.
Community Yard Sale;
8:00 a.m. to noon

6
Yard Waste Pick Up
Special Pick Up
(call Town Hall by 4:00
p.m. Fri., May 4)

8
Mayor and Council Work
Session; 7:00 p.m.

9
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting;
5:00 p.m.

10

11
Yard Waste Pick Up
Potomac River Water
Fowl Show;
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.;
Grace Lutheran Church

12
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Potomac River Water
Fowl Show;
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
Grace Lutheran Church



Mother's Day

13
Yard Waste Pick Up
Beautification
Commission
Meeting; 4:00 p.m.

15
Mayor and Council
Work Session; 7:00 p.m.

16
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

17

18
Yard Waste Pick Up

19
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

20
Yard Waste Pick Up

22
Mayor and Council
Regular Meetings;
7:00 p.m.

23
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

24

25
25th Hour band;
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

26
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

27
Town Hall Closed
No Yard Waste Pick Up
Trash Pick Up will be 5/29
Memorial Day Ceremony;
11:00 a.m.

29
Trash Pick Up from 5/28

30
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Recycling Pick Up
may be delayed

31

1
Yard Waste Pick Up
Four of a Kind band;
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

2
Farmers Market;
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CELEBRATE LA PLATA

10 Year Anniversary of the La Plata Tornado



**Saturday,
April 28, 2012**

Celebrate La Plata is the Town's annual Spring Festival with food, fun, art, and more for

the whole family. In 2012, this event takes on greater importance as we recognize the 10 year anniversary of the Tornado that devastated La Plata on April 28, 2002 by celebrating "A closer and stronger community" with a full day of events.

Schedule of Events (as of press time)

Civista annual 5K Run/ Walk for Wellness – 8:30 am

Civista Health Foundation 17th Annual 5K Run/Walk for Wellness will kick off Celebrate La Plata Day. For more information visit www.civistahealth-foundation.org.

Indoor Yard Sale

Four Square Church located at 1 Calvert Street will be holding an indoor yard sale from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Free Refreshments, for more information (301) 535-9065.

Open House

The La Plata Garden Club will hold an Open House at the Star Memorial Garden and Firehouse Museum from 11:00 am to noon with light refreshments. The museum building, which houses a 1929 Seagrave fire truck will be open and on display.

Celebrate La Plata

Free Family Fun at the Town Hall from noon to 5:00 pm

Enjoy games and activities for children of all ages, face painting, recycled art show, displays, fire trucks, emergency vehicles, helicopters, entertainment, bed races, and refreshments for sale.

La Plata Police Department Open House

The station located at 101 La Grange Avenue will be open to the public from noon to 5 pm for tours. Stop in and

take a look around.

Meet & Greet Southern Maryland Blue Crabs

Players will be on the grounds of the Town Hall from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm for autographs. Pinch will be roaming around too.

Charles County Chamber of Commerce Bed Races

Races will start at 3:00 pm in front of the Town Hall. For more information or to enter a bed please contact the Chamber of Commerce at www.charles-countychamber.org

Concert

US Navy Band Cruisers will conclude the day with an outdoor concert beginning at 7:00 pm on the west lawn of the Town Hall. Concert goers are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair for seating.

For more information on any of the events please contact Colleen Wilson, Special Events Coordinator, (301) 934-8421 or cwilson@townofaplata.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ice Cream with the Easter Bunny



Hop on in for ice cream with the Easter Bunny! Stop by the La Plata Town Hall on the Monday after Easter, April 9th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bring the

kids for ice cream from Carvel, crafts and visit with the Easter Bunny.

Community Yard Sale



The first of 3 **Community Yard Sales** scheduled for this year will take place on Saturday May 5th from 8AM to 12 PM on the grounds of Town Hall. To reserve your table to be a vendor, download the registration form at our website. Go to www.TownofLaPlata.org, click on

Events, then click on **Community Yard Sales**.

You can also pick up a form at La Plata Town Hall, or contact Colleen Wilson at (301) 934-8421 x 142 or CWilson@TownofLaPlata.org.



The Blue Crabs will be offering a Buy 1 Get 1 Free Ticket to all Town of La Plata Residents for April 27-29th to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the La Plata Tornado. On April 27th, the Blue Crabs will pay homage to those who were impacted by the tornado. The game begins at 7:05 pm, and the pre-game ceremonies will begin at 6:30 pm. Check www.somdbluecrabs.com for details.

WEBSITE POLL



Visit the Town of La Plata's website at <http://www.townoflaplata.org> to participate in an online poll. Click on the 'Snap Poll' link on the left side of the web page to go to the poll and see the results to date. The current question is:

Since there is no established funding for storm water pipes and collection devices, the Town of La Plata should develop a funding source to maintain the storm water system.

Strongly Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Somewhat Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Don't Know

February Website Poll Results

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

How were you affected when the Tornado struck La Plata on April 28, 2002?

I was directly impacted – 30%

A member of my family was directly impacted – 7%

I have friends that were directly impacted – 7%

I lived nearby, but the tornado did not affect me or my family – 20%

I didn't live in the area – 37%

Ten years can go by so quickly. For the people living in La Plata a decade

ago the impact of the tornado created memories that are sharp and endure the years. There is no doubt that the effect on this community was substantial. Lost life, destroyed homes, leveled businesses, debris scattered for miles, and unquantifiable challenges that span the community. For those living here, ten years has not erased all of the effects of the tornado. Those lost are still gone, trees that once stood have not been completely replaced by new growth, and the familiar landscape of downtown and the surrounds show a significant number of rebuilt and new buildings. Those that came through the tornado have a story to share, and it is often part of the conversation when meeting someone new. 'Where were you during the tornado?'

The answers to that question are a way for people to connect and establish common ground through a shared experience. Even if there was no direct damage to their home or business, people experienced the challenges of trying to get through Town, conduct business, and fulfill their everyday tasks. Many living in the community today are missing that common ground, and do not have a story to share.

In the past decade, La Plata's population expanded by about a third, and many people living here in 2002 moved to new areas, and people have relocated from all over. Over half of the people living in La Plata today were not here in 2002, and the recent snap poll reflects that. As

the years continue to go by, and people move on and move in, the memory of April 28, 2002 will fade as part of the public consciousness.

La Plata's history comes in part from the memories of the people of the community. In order to preserve that history, many La Plata property owners are participating in Memory Lane. This is a project where displays will be posted throughout the community showing what a property was like before, or just after the tornado, and what they are like today. It is an opportunity to share a story, and remember the strength of La Plata and celebrate its resiliency. Throughout April look for Memory Lane displays throughout the community. Participants are listed on the Town website. On April 28th, come to Celebrate La Plata, and see all of the Memory Lane displays. It is not too late to participate, just contact Colleen Wilson at cwilson@townoflaplata.org.

Please share your tornado story as well. Visit the La Plata Tornado Facebook Page to post about your experience and memories. La Plata is a fantastic place, and it is that way because of the community of people that live and work here. Include your thoughts to contribute to the remembrance on the 10 year anniversary of the tornado.

NEW EMPLOYEE



Colleen Wilson

On February 6, Colleen Wilson joined the Town of La Plata staff as the Special Events Coordinator. Colleen has over ten years experience in event planning and has previously worked for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Washington, DC, the College of South-

ern Maryland, and Hospice of Charles County. Colleen grew up in La Plata and left the area to attend Appalachian State University in North Carolina, graduating with a BS in Elementary Education. Colleen resides in La Plata with her husband and two children.

Conservation Corner – Is Earth Sustainable?



Earth Day is on April 22nd this year. Since 1970 people have gathered, talked, and undertaken projects to help educate people and improve the earth's environment. Over those four decades has society improved? Is the earth a better place? Are we living sustainably?

In October of 2011 the United Nations estimated that the world's population passed 7 billion inhabitants. China, India, and the United States are the three most populous countries accounting for over 2.8 billion people. Estimates show the world population could reach 8 billion by the mid 2020's. If the world's population is going to grow 15% in the next 15 years, will the earth be able to sustain everyone? The economies in China and India alone are experiencing significant growth, as wealth comes to those nations, and prosperity rises among the people. That prosperity drives the desire for goods and services. Demand for fuel, energy, commodities, and food will outpace the growth of the world population, which will put a strain on everything that has limited capacity.

As a developed nation the United States has long been a major consumer of the world's resources. To a large degree it has been able to do so with little competition. In the future a larger and more affluent world population will enhance the strain on finite resources. Significant shifts will be necessary to accommodate world demand. As you think about what you consume, does it contribute to the strain on finite resources, or are you making more sustainable choices?

Finite resources like coal, natural gas, petroleum, rare earth elements, and other components of our planet are either not able to be created, or take such a long period of time to be produced naturally, their supply is effectively limited. Today's developed society has been built upon consumption of these resources. The rate they are consumed dictates how long they will be available for people to continue using.

Some resources are replenishable, like wood, fish, clean water, and agricultural products. Use of items that can be replenished relatively easily help to sustain society. Food, clothing, housing, and other items made from things that can be grown, or replenished is a great way of helping the planet be more sustainable. The challenge lies in how much of a resource is used in comparison to the time it takes to replenish. If the earth can grow a million new acres of forest each year, that resource can be sustainable, as long as the world does not use more than one million acres of forest for wood products each year. If two million acres is used every year, and only one million is grown back, the supply of wood products will diminish over time. There is a limit to these resources due to a finite amount of land, water, and the finite resources used to produce them.

Sustainable resources are ones that can be readily replenished, and the consumption does not exceed the rate at which they are replenished. Some resources can be sustainable in part of the world, but unsustainable in others. Solar power generation in Florida is much more sustainable than solar power in Alaska.

This April as you think about what you can do to make your life more sustainable, keep in mind that it is not just for how people live today, but for the billions of people coming in the next couple generations.

Code Corner – Spring Cleaning

Keep Your Home Beautiful and Code Compliant

Proper maintenance of your home helps extend its life, improves the quality of your residence, and adds value to your neighborhood. Property maintenance is part of the Town code. In the Town Code - Sections 117 and 152, and in the International Property Maintenance Code - Sections 301 through 308 there is a good overview of the maintenance requirements for your home's exterior and interior structure. Here is a spring cleaning "Top Ten List", to help get your home looking great!

1. Siding – Mold and mildew, loose or missing panels, peeling paint
2. Windows – Broken glass, missing screens, missing caulking and peeling paint.
3. Doors – Peeling paint, loose weather strips, loose hardware.
4. Painting – Exterior and interior walls and trim.
5. Gutters – Clean-out and re-attach as needed. Flexible down spout extensions help keep water away from the foundation.
6. Decks and Porches – Remove leaves and debris, repair or replace decking boards as needed, don't forget to check the deck supports and attachments to the house for any structural defects. Cleaning and re-sealing a deck can add years to its life.
7. Power Washing – This is a quick and easy method to clean your home's exterior, gutters and deck.
8. Storage – Don't forget to take care of your shed and any other outbuildings.
9. Outside Electrical Outlets – Do they have covers, are they working and do they have Ground Fault Protection (GFI)? GFI is designed to protect you from receiving a shock injury.
10. Sump Pumps – Be sure to check your sump pump for proper operation. If it is an older model, consider replacing it, BEFORE it fails during a storm.

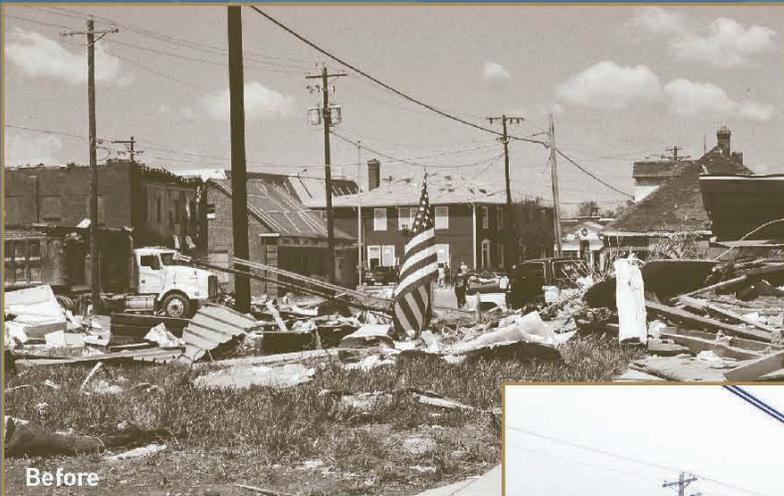
These are just a few items to help get your home ready for the spring. Please be sure to follow safe practices while cleaning and working around the house. Consider a licensed contractor for big projects. If you have any questions about the code, please contact Aaron Mosrie, Asst. Manager of Inspections at (301) 934-8421 ext. 132.

TOWN OF LA PLATA

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

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALDORF, MD
PERMIT NO. 10131

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



Before



★
**A Closer
& Stronger
Community**



After