

# TOWN NOTES

*News from La Plata Town Hall*



## MAYOR'S CORNER

The first half of 2020 has been memorable, to say the least. I cannot even begin to list the challenges we have encountered since January 1, 2020. It will get better – I promise. In the meantime, while we continue to navigate these uncharted waters, I want our residents and business owners to know that your Town Council and amazing Town Staff are here to help in any way we can. We have weathered stronger storms together. I am confident that we will make it through this one as well because “together we are stronger”.

Slowly Maryland is starting to reopen, which is great news! One thing to remember, though, just because we are opening, does not mean that the virus has disappeared. We must be safe and stay vigilant. Please continue to wear facemasks indoors, wash your hands frequently, and practice social distancing. I am truly looking forward to the day when we will safely be back together again, enjoying our Summer Concert Series on the lawn, socializing at our local businesses, and reconnecting with our neighbors. You all have been amazing during this time. Keep up the great work and please continue to support your local businesses.

Even though Town Hall has been closed to the public since mid-March, your Town Council and Staff continue to work hard on our annual budget, annexations, resolutions, and day-to-day operations. Our Work Sessions and Business meetings have been being conducted virtually, and many of you have attended. We continue to collaborate with the County on securing sidewalks on Washington Avenue as well as moving forward with the placement of a new, state-of-the-art library. I am encouraged by the progress and in the process have learned the virtue of patience.

GREAT NEWS – The Governor awarded a grant of \$250,000 for our new Dorchester Community Center. This money will be used to expand the existing site. We are very excited to get this project open and operational.



### STAY HOME

Even if you're feeling healthy, social distancing will help us stop the spread of COVID-19.



### STAY SAFE

Wash your hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you're feeling ill.



### STAY AWARE

Reputable sources include Governor Hogan, Maryland state agencies, and the CDC.



### STAY CALM

No need to panic, hoard, or listen to rumors. We will all get through this together.

LEARN MORE AT [CORONAVIRUS.MARYLAND.GOV](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov) AND [GOVERNOR.MARYLAND.GOV](https://governor.maryland.gov).



TownofLaPlata



LaPlataPD



## La Plata Receives Banner Town Designation!

The Banner Town designation is the Maryland Municipal League’s (MML) highest member achievement award. The program is designed to encourage and reward exceptional participation in MML programs and activities and to foster teamwork among municipal officials. The program criteria consists of participating in all of the following: Visits to at least one school to encourage 4th graders to participate in the “If I Were Mayor, I would...” essay contest, have at least one representative from the Town attend four Southern

Maryland Municipal Association chapter meetings, send a representative to the annual MML fall conference, and have at least one elected official participate in at least one of the following: serve on the MML Board of Directors, enrollment in the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance program or participate in the Student Shadowing Experience Program. All of the criteria must have been accomplished between June 1, 2019 and May 25, 2020. The Council has already begun working toward next year’s requirements.



Mayor James joined Stephanie Wineberg’s 2nd grade class from Grace Lutheran Church and school on a “virtual” field trip to learn about Municipal Government. Students were able to ask questions of the Mayor during their Zoom session.

### Annual Municipal Clerks Week



May 3-9, 2020 celebrated Annual Municipal Clerks Week. It is week where werecognize the importance of the Clerk’s office with its professional link between the citizens and the elected body.

## 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 resumes July 6



Bulk items are picked up the first Monday of each

month, or the following Monday if the first one is a holiday. 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 resumed on June 15

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.*

## 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 - SCHEDULE CHANGE DUE TO COVID 19

Household hazardous waste collection is tentatively set to occur on Saturdays, July 11, August 1, and September 5. This schedule could change at any time, for any reason.

Household hazardous waste collection takes place 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,



CHARLES COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
COLLECTION

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.

## 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...](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](mailto:mtrollinger@townofaplata.org) with any inquiries.

## Trash Collection Schedule Adjustment

### If your regular trash collection day is:

Friday, July 3, 2020  
Monday, Sept. 7, 2020

### Trash will be picked up on:

Thursday, July 2, 2020  
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020

### Yard Waste Pick Up

Friday, July 3, 2020  
Monday, Sept. 7, 2020

No Pick Up  
No Pick Up

### Recycling Pick Up:

Wednesday, July 1, 2020  
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020

Pick Up as scheduled  
Pick Up as scheduled

### Special Pick Up:

Monday, July 6, 2020  
Monday, August 3, 2020  
Monday, Sept. 14, 2020

# LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## From the Desk of the Chief



The death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis was extremely tragic. As I noted on the agency's Facebook page, "As a police chief, I do not condone the actions of the officers involved. Moreover, I condemn the officers' actions. No human being should have been treated in such a manner." The law enforcement profession must do better.

The La Plata Police Department (LPPD) is committed to working within law enforcement's best practices, in policy and in deed. To that end, LPPD worked diligently to achieve national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), Inc. After several years of policy review, training adjustments, and accumulating proofs of compliance, LPPD became the smallest accredited law enforcement agency in Maryland, and one of 31 agencies nationwide with fewer than 25 sworn officers.

Only 5% of law enforcement agencies nationwide are CALEA accredited.

CALEA's Law Enforcement Accreditation process focuses on standards that provide best practices related to life, health, and safety procedures for the agency. These standards are considered foundational for contemporary law enforcement agencies.

The program provides the framework for addressing high risk issues within a contemporary environment, and ensures officers are prepared to meet basic community service expectations and prepared to manage critical events.

CALEA standards are subject to ongoing review and revision. When modifications are recommended, they are presented to the Commission's Standards Review and Interpretation Committee (SRIC) for consideration.

Standards, as set out by the Commission, are constructed with sensitivity to the number of

full-time personnel employed by the agency as well as the agency's mandated functional responsibilities.

The CALEA process includes an annual remote file review. During this file review, selected CALEA standards are examined by an accreditation compliance service manager. Every four years, in addition to the offsite file review, a team of certified assessors conduct an onsite review. During the review, the assessment team focuses on the outcomes of agency policies. The team conducts numerous interviews with employees, community stakeholders, residential and community leaders, and others. The team also holds an anonymous phone in-session and public hearing.

After an exit interview, the team prepares a detailed report about the agency which is later presented to a group of CALEA commissioners. At the commission hearing, a team of commissioners' present questions to the agency's command staff about the onsite assessment. At the end of the hearing, the commission determines if the agency has earned accreditation.

Accreditation is a daunting and arduous undertaking, but worth the time and effort.

*See you on the road!*

Chief Carl Schinner

## National Police Week

May 10- 16, 2020 was National Police Week. It was a time when we payed tribute to officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to recognize police for their efforts in keeping our communities safe.



# TOWN OF LA PLATA – 2021 BUDGET

## Town of La Plata – Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget & Capital Improvement Plan

Over the past several months, the Town of La Plata has held work sessions to discuss the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) Proposed Budget & Capital Improvement Plan. This budget includes the Town's General Fund and Enterprise Funds with appropriated funds for both operating and capital projects. Reflected in the budget is the guidance provided by Town Council, Department Heads, Staff, Community Groups, and La Plata residents. The proposed General Fund Budget for FY 2021 equals \$8,909,905 which represents a decrease over the FY 2020 budget of \$668,375 or 6.9%. The proposed Enterprise Funds Budget for FY 2021 equals \$7,892,180 which represents a decrease over the FY 2020 budget of \$1,671,087 or 17.4%. This large decrease in both the General Fund and Enterprise Funds is mainly attributable to one-time capital projects funded in the FY 2020 budget and the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The outbreak of COVID-19 had a significant impact on the development of the FY 2021 budget. The economic fallout has been felt immediately with historic unemployment claims, extreme volatility in the stock market, and depressed economic indicators. The duration and impact of these economic pains is unknown and provides extreme uncertainty for local governments when financial planning. At the onset of the outbreak, Town staff had developed initial revenue and expenditure forecasts. In consideration for the proposed budget, senior leadership discussed necessary revisions due to the spread of COVID-19. When financial scenario planning, staff took into consideration potential models of recovery. Recovery time is unknown and could include a swift long-term rebound, periods of recovery offset by a return of infection, or a protracted recovery causing long-term pain. Potential areas of impact on Town General Fund revenue would be shared income tax, investment earnings, personal property tax, hotel/motel tax, highway user revenue, and activity related revenue. The post COVID-19 revenue projections reflect a \$738,170 or 8% decrease when compared to initial projections.

Considering the projected decrease in revenue and uncertainty surrounding the outbreak, the FY 2021 Proposed Budget includes measured actions to reduce expenditures. These steps include the deferral of certain capital projects, a reduction in the proposed number of new positions, and the review of data in budget to actuals with input from departments to determine where variances could be reduced to lessen projected expenditures. When developing the budget, staff was mindful of the economic hardship facing Town residents because of the pandemic. The proposed budget includes no increase in real property tax, the

elimination of credit card processing fees when paying utility bills, and no increase in water, sewer, or trash rates.

This will be the second year the Town is incorporating a capital improvement plan (CIP) into its budget and budget process. The FY 2021 CIP is proposed at \$1,315,500 with \$545,500 appropriated to the General Fund and \$770,000 to the Enterprise Funds. The CIP is funded through \$95,500 pay-as-you-go, \$100,00 assigned fund balance, \$620,000 in unassigned fund balance, \$250,000 in State funding, and \$250,000 in debt proceeds. Implementing a long view CIP will allow the Town to face challenges and meet opportunities in a planned and logical manner.

The proposed budget reflects no increase in the property tax rate as it remains constant at \$0.32 per \$100 of assessed value. The other two types of property tax the Town levies and collects are business personal property and public utility personal property. Business personal property taxes are levied on the reported assessed value of personal property owned and used by Town based businesses. Public utility personal property taxes are assessed using the unit method of valuation which considers both the value of their real and personal property. Due to the demand for increased Town services and the scope of the public utility personal property tax, the FY 2021 Proposed Budget represents an increase of \$1.00 to \$2.50 per \$100 of assessed value. The business personal property tax rate will remain constant at \$0.75 per \$100 of assessed value. For the FY 2021 Budget, business personal property taxes account for \$148,120 in total revenue while public utility personal property taxes account for \$254,940.

As with most municipalities, La Plata faces significant challenges in the coming years due to aging infrastructure. Additionally, the Town has an MS4 Permit from the State that mandates La Plata to meet certain standards. This permit requires the Town to make significant upgrades to untreated impervious surfaces to current storm water standards. The cost to be in compliance with the MS4 permit puts an enormous amount of current and future costs on our Storm Water fund. The Town strives to set water and sewer rates based on the actual cost to deliver services. Due to the increase in costs and aging infrastructure the Town is proposing an increase in the Storm Water fee of \$3.45 per quarter. The FY 2021 Proposed Budget includes no increase in water, sewer, or trash rates while increasing the recycling rate \$0.30 per quarter.

The Town intends to adopt the FY 2021 Proposed Budget & Capital Improvement Plan at a Council meeting on Monday June 8th. Copies of the proposed budget can be found on the Town's website. Once adopted, copies of the final budget will be available to the public after July 1st on the Town's website.

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## Tilghman Lake

Explore one of La Plata's hidden gems! With 61 acres of nature to explore, Tilghman Lake Park is the largest park in the Town limits. Tilghman Lake Park is located **10598 Boxer Elder Road** off Radio Station Road.

The park features a one-mile walking trail that connects to Laurel Springs Park, floating dock, catch & release fishing and a picnic pavilion for families to enjoy.

For more information about Tilghman Lake Park visit [www.townoflaplata.org](http://www.townoflaplata.org) or Tilghman Lake Park Facebook page

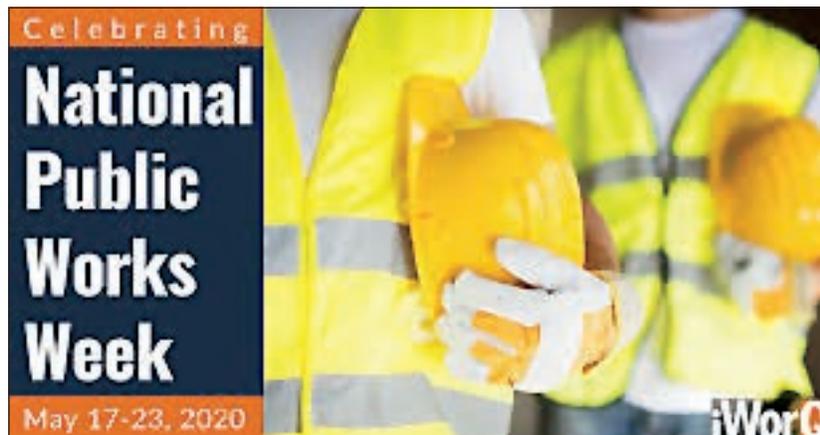


*Dock at Tilghman Lake*



## National Public Works Week

May 17-23, 2020 was National Public Works Week. It was a time for us to come together to celebrate and honor our public works department and the differences they make to our Town in managing and operating the heart of our local community and in building the quality of life.



# July 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4
Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up call by 4:00 pm on 7/2	Yard Waste Pick Up	Planning Commission Meeting; 6:00 pm	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Design Review Board Meeting; 9:00 am	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Trach Pick Up for 7/3	Beautification Committee Meeting; 9:30 am Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Household Hazardous Waste Collection	Town Hall Closed No Yard Waste Pick Up No Trash Pick Up Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Yard Waste Pick Up Town Council Work Session; 6:00 pm	Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
Yard Waste Pick Up Council Business Meeting; 7:00 pm	Yard Waste Pick Up	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* 	Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up		

\*Farmers Market changes due to COVID19. See page 10 for more information.



# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5
 Town Hall Closed No Trash Pick Up; Pick Up 9/8 No Yard Waste Pick Up	Town Hall Closed Yard Waste Pick Up Special Pick Up call by 4:00 pm on 9/11 Town Council Work Session; 6:00 pm	Planning Commission Meeting; 6:00 pm Trash Pick Up from 9/7 Crime Watch Council Meeting; 7:00 pm	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; 7:30 am Design Review Board Meetings; 9:00 am Recycling as scheduled	Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Beautification Committee Meeting; 9:30 am Yard Waste Pick Up	Yard Waste Pick Up Yard Waste Pick Up Yard Waste Pick Up	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*  Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm* Household Hazardous Waste Collection
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	26
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	26
27	28	29	30				
Yard Waste Pick Up Town Council Work Session; 6:00 pm	Yard Waste Pick Up Town Council Work Session; 6:00 pm	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*	Yard Waste Pick Up	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*	 Farmers Market; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm*	Yard Waste Pick Up Council Business Meeting; 7:00 pm

\*Farmers Market changes due to COVID19. See page 10 for more information..



## Event Update

Currently our Town of La Plata 2020 Event Schedule is on hold. We will continue to monitor the updates from the Governor and CDC regarding events. Updates to the event schedule will be posted on the Town's website, Facebook page, and weekly emails. To sign up for the Town's weekly emails please send your email to the Special Events Coordinator, Colleen Wilson at [cwilson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cwilson@townoflaplata.org). Thank you for your patience and hope to see you at a Town event soon!



## Farmers Market News

It's later than we planned, but the La Plata Farmers Market will be opening this season. We're working out the hygiene and social distancing mechanics of it now, so we don't have a firm date yet. When we're ready, we'll post it...

- ...in the Town Notes
- ...on the Market Facebook page (La Plata Farmers Market)
- ...on our Instagram page ([lpmdfarmersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/lpmdfarmersmarket))
- ...on our webpage (send email for link)

Contact Kelly Phipps, Market Manager ([lpfmmanager@gmail.com](mailto:lpfmmanager@gmail.com)), for more information.



## August is Speed Awareness Month

The Council of the Town of La Plata and the La Plata Police Department have declared August as Speed Awareness Month. August signals the end of summer with the start of another school year. The goal of Speed Awareness Month is to slow down traffic, thus saving lives. By making drivers more aware of the speed limits and encouraging them to drive within the posted limits, the citizens and visitors of the Town will have a safer August. Drivers are encouraged to always drive within the speed limit throughout the year. Please help us reach our goal; obey the speed limit

# Town of La Plata 2019 Drinking Water Quality Report



PWSID: 008-0025

## Important Information Concerning Your Drinking Water

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2019. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. The Town of La Plata operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report in conjunction with the Maryland Environmental Service.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely conducts sanitary surveys, inspections and monitoring for all public water systems. The Town of La Plata provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Brent Manuel at 301-934-8421, e-mail [bmanuel@townoflaplata.org](mailto:bmanuel@townoflaplata.org)** or mail at Town of La Plata, P.O. Box 2268, 305 Queen Annes Street, La Plata Maryland 20646

### For More Information:

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, please contact the Director of Operations for **La Plata Water Treatment Plant at 301-934-8421**.

**T**he water for the Town of La Plata is pumped from five wells, each is over 1000 feet deep. Four wells are located in the Lower Patapsco aquifer and the other well is located in the Upper Patapsco formation. After the water is pumped out of the well we add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call Town of La Plata at **301-934-8421**

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**S**ome people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

# Town of La Plata Treated Water Quality Report 2019

## Definitions:

- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ◆ **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- ◆ **Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ◆ **Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ◆ **Turbidity** - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of “cloudiness” of the water.
- ◆ **NTU - Nephelometric Turbidity Units.** Units of measurement used to report the level of turbidity or “cloudiness” in the water.
- ◆ **pCi/l** - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.
- ◆ **ppb** - Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- ◆ **ppm** - Parts per million or milligrams per liter.

## Special points of interest:

The Town of La Plata Drinking Water met all of the State and Federal requirements. Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

## Important information about Gross Alpha Emitters:

Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 7.2 pCi/l which is below the 15 pCi/l MCL.

**T**he following table lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2019 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2019.

The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

## Town of La Plata Treated Water Quality Report 2019

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed EPAs MCL	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
<b>Regulated at the Treatment Plants</b>			
Fluoride (2017 & 2018 Testing)	4000 ppb	1090 ppb (Range: 746 to 1090 ppb)	4000 ppb
Source: Erosion of natural deposits and discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories			
Chromium (2019 Testing)	100 ppb	2.3 ppb (Range: 0.0 to 2.3 ppb)	100 ppb
Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from steel/pulp mills			
Barium (2018 & 2019 Testing)	2000 ppb	34.9 ppb (Range: 5.3 to 34.9 ppb)	2000 ppb
Source: Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from metal refineries			
Gross Alpha (2016 Testing)	15 pCi/l	7.2 pCi/l (Range: 6.7 to 7.2 pCi/l)	0 pCi/l
Source: Erosion of natural deposits			
Combine Radium (226 & 228) (2015 Testing)	5 pCi/l	0.5 pCi/l*	N/A
Sources: Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Beta (2010 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	8.4 pCi/l**	0 pCi/l
Source: Erosion of natural deposits			
<b>Notations:</b> * EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles ** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required. Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits.			
<b>Regulated in the Distribution</b>			
Chlorine Water additive used to control microbes *Average result	4 ppm	1.31 ppm* (Range: 1.15 to 1.56 ppm)	4 ppm
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2019 Testing)	80 ppb	27 ppb	n/a
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2019 Testing)	60 ppb	11 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water disinfection			
<b>Regulated in the Distribution</b>			
	<b>Action Level</b>	<b>90th Percentile</b>	<b>Ideal Goal</b>
Copper (2017 Testing)	1300 ppb	277 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical sources of contaminant: corrosion of household plumbing			
Lead (2017 Testing)	15 ppb	1.12 ppb	0 ppb
Source: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			

### Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

*In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.*



## Lead Prevention

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of La Plata is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791** or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

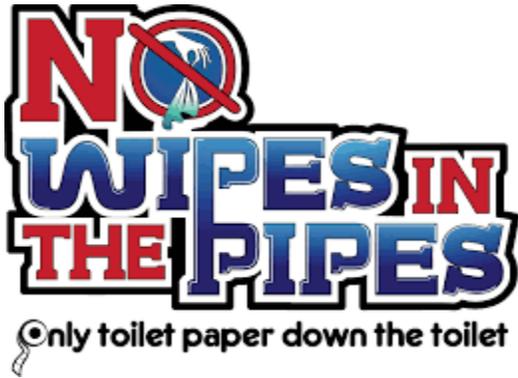
## Advanced technology available to consumers

The Town of La Plata has invested in several innovative technologies in order to help conserve our natural resources and to help meet future needs. A new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) was installed in August 2012 to automate the Town's water meter reading and billing system. This system allows residents to access their account information over the internet and set alerts to notify them of potential leaks. In addition, the Town now has the ability to detect leaks in system mains to reduce major problems of leaking pipes under Town roadways. Utility customers who would like to be able to access their accounts using this new technology will be able to do so after contacting the Town at 301-934-8421 or emailing [cjohnson@townoflaplata.org](mailto:cjohnson@townoflaplata.org) to set up their account.

## Radon

The result of the March 2014 radon sample was 265 pCi/l. Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800-SOS-RADON).

*If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please call Brent Manuel at 301-934-7421 or email your request to [bmanuel@townoflaplata.org](mailto:bmanuel@townoflaplata.org).*

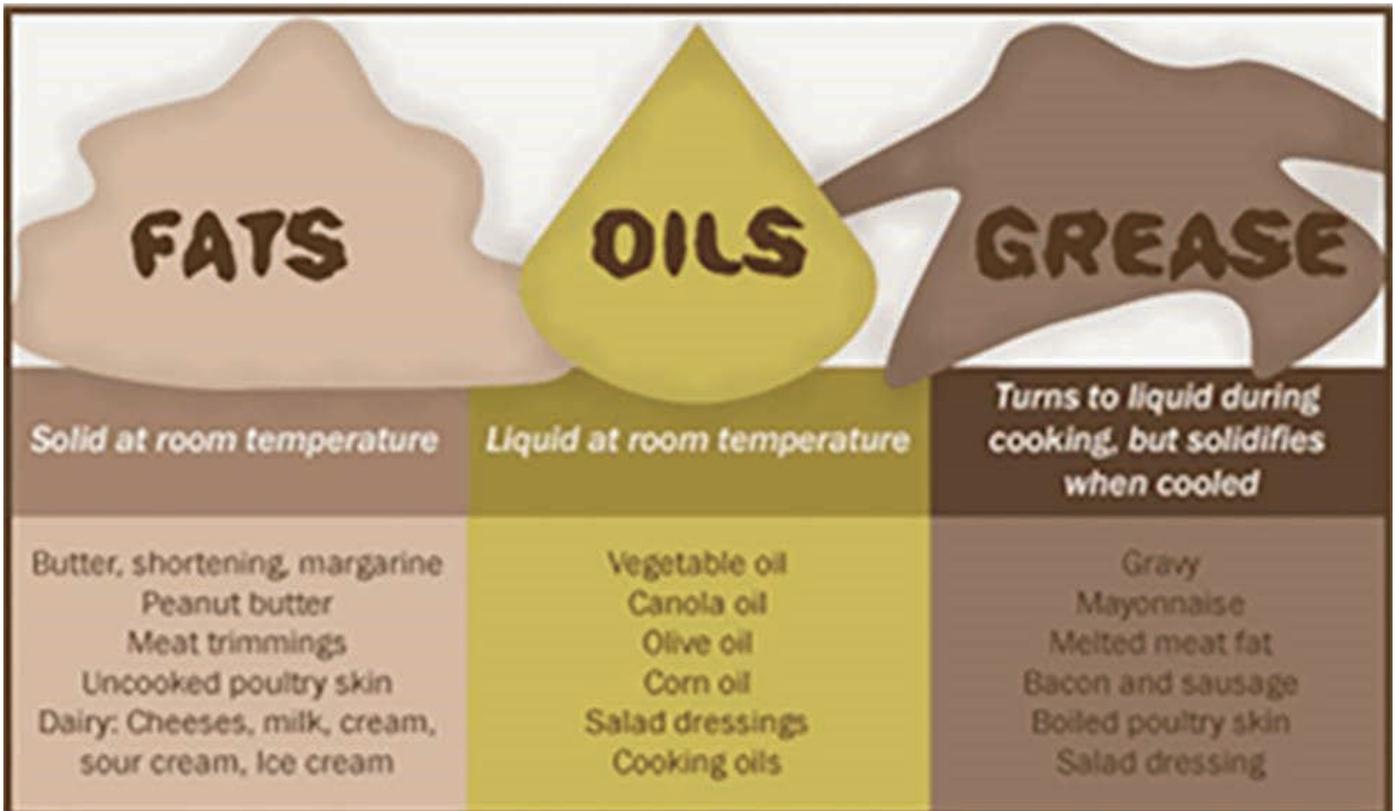


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging all Americans to only flush toilet paper, not disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items that should be disposed of in the trash. Flushing only toilet paper helps ensure that the toilets, plumbing, sewer systems and septic systems will continue working properly to safely manage our nation’s wastewater. While EPA encourages disinfecting your environment to prevent the spread of COVID-19, never flush disinfecting wipes

or other non-flushable items. These easy steps will keep surfaces disinfected and wastewater management systems working for all Americans.

Preventable toilet and sewer backups can pose a threat to human health and present an extra challenge to our water utilities and their workforce. Flushing anything other than toilet paper, including disinfecting wipes, can damage internal plumbing, local sewer systems and septic systems. Fixing these backups is costly and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly. EPA thanks wastewater utilities and their workforce for their courageous efforts at a time when resources may be stretched thin. Having fully operational wastewater services is critical to containing COVID-19 and protecting Americans from other public health risks. Our nation’s wastewater employees are everyday heroes who are on the frontline of protecting human health and the environment every single day.

For more information, see <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>.



# TOWN OF LA PLATA

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