

Rotary



The Mediator Official Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Charles County (La Plata)

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

April 25th Happy Hour

Sunday, April 14, 2019

The Rotary Club of Charles County (La Plata) will have a happy hour on Thursday, April 25th, 6:30pm, tentatively scheduled to be held at Kaow Thai Restaurant in La Plata. The Kaow Thai is located at 68 Drury Dr, La Plata, MD 20646. Rotarians are encouraged to bring a spouse or guest to enjoy fellowship, an important part of club service.

Social Outing to Port Tobacco Players - Deathtrap

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Rotary Club of Charles County May social outing will be to attend the Port Tobacco Players performance of Deathtrap on May 18th. The show starts at 8pm, but before Rotarians will be invited to join a wine and cheese reception in the rehearsal hall in the rear of the theatre. To register go to <https://IsMyRotaryClub.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77429216>. The cost will be \$14 per person, and can be paid online, added to your club invoice (Charles County Only) or by check provided at the door. For the wine and cheese reception, plan on entering on the west side of the building any time after 6:30pm. Before that, feel free to enjoy dinner at The Charles or other local restaurants. Deathtrap is a thriller/comedy and Port Tobacco Player is an award-winning community theater, located at 508 Charles St, La Plata, MD 20646. For questions contact Chris at 240-320-6694 or zabriskie@gmail.com.

Eagle Scout Building Little Libraries for Club

Saturday, April 20, 2019

Attention Rotarians and Supporters:

Our Eagle Scout Candidate, Joseph Bonney, is all ready to begin building and painting Little Free Libraries for our club to display throughout the county. The date will be Saturday, April 27 from 8am to 5pm. Joseph has arranged for the work to be done at the home of a Mr. Verkerke at 12010 Provident Dr., La Plata, MD. In addition to the team he has put together, he invites Rotarians to be involved in this project.

Please RSVP via Jim Brewster (202-557-8097) by Tuesday evening, if you can participate and what part (s) of the project you can help with. Click on "Read More" for details of how you can participate.

Please see the below sign-up sheet and Joseph's explanation.

During this project, we will assemble and paint 10 Little Libraries. The construction of these libraries is split into three main stages.

Stage One (A)-8:00 AM

During stage one (A), the pieces of lumber will be cut into the pieces of the library.

Stage Two (B)-9:30 AM

During stage two (B), the pieces will be assembled, sanded, and given a coat of paint.

Stage Three (C)-3:00 PM

During stage three (C), the libraries will be given a second coat of paint. If you have any tools that you would like to bring, please do so.

Encouraging Reading Through Little Free Libraries.

Club Leaders



[Chelsea R. Brown](#)
President



[Christopher T. Zabriskie](#)
President -Elect



[Kathryn Brooke Rieinan](#)
Vice President



[Catherine A. Bender](#)
Secretary



[Mark G. Walker](#)
Secretary -Elect



[Thomas G. Hill](#)
Treasurer



[Christopher Simpson](#)
iPast President



[Barbara R. Thompson](#)
Assistant Governor

Speakers

April 24, 2019

[Cara Fogarty](#)
The Nonprofit Institute at CSM

May 01, 2019

[Chelsea Brown](#)
Club Business Meeting

May 08, 2019

[Ann Lebaron](#)
Healthy Eating

May 22, 2019

[Chris Zabriskie and Tommy Hill](#)
Club Finances and Budget

Birthdays

By James B Brewster on Wednesday, April 17, 2019

When I joined the La Plata Rotary club in 2017, my first leadership position was custodian of the Little Free Libraries.

I had seen Little Free Libraries before. They were very large, colorful, birdhouse styled boxes mounted on 4x4 posts like roadside mailboxes. Little Free Library is a 501 created by Todd Bol in 2009, with more than 75,000 registered public book exchanges. The Little Free Library program's (<https://littlefreelibrary.org>) purpose is to, inspire a love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Anyone who desires can put their used books into the library and anyone who desires can take a book out and read and keep it or read and return it. As readers and writers, my wife (Katie) and I don't lack for books in our house. We put our used books and our published books in the library. I knew what I was getting into.

Turns out the La Plata Rotary owns 23 Little Free Libraries. I had to visit every library once a month to confirm their condition (any repairs needed?), resupply them with books, and straighten out the collection. Plus, I had to store all the books collected for the libraries in my workshop. My wife said she would gladly peruse the use books for the libraries, keep each library clean and stocked, and report to me any that needed to be repaired.

The program got started in our Club, when a member suggested sponsoring Little Free Libraries. Our coordinator found a Little Free Library design on the website (<https://littlefreelibrary.org>), got the hospital work shop to cut the wood to size (hospital is Rotary member), and gathered a group at a members house to assemble and paint 23 libraries. Cost is about \$150/library. The libraries are placed inside stores and doctors offices or on the sidewalk in front of businesses. Katie visits 1/2 of the libraries each week to check their condition and to restock the unit. She puts out 60-80 books on each trip, totaling about 3,120 books distributed each year.

We are adding 10 new Little Free libraries in Charles County and Southern Maryland as a result of a Boy Scout needing an Eagle Scout project. He knew a member and asked if the Rotary had a project he could take on. When we mentioned the LFL project, he jumped at the chance and agreed to build 10. We get our books from our own members and from schools that sponsor book collection drives.

Welcome New Members

Saturday, April 13, 2019



On Wednesday, April 10th, the Rotary inducted three new members, Kate Heichler, Dillon Kercher, and Sharon Capitani. Dillion is a project manager at Pavement Co, in Waldorf, Kate is the rector at Christ Church in La Plata, and Sharon is a realtor with New Millennium. We are excited to welcome these energetic young members to Rotary.

RLI Coming to La Plata

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-District program that teaches Rotarians more about Rotary, and it's coming to La Plata on May 18th.

To register for Level 1, here's the link - https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0014-0013-25a092bc6e1343139d5562ef81789c29

Level one is great for new members who want to learn more about what it means about being a Rotarian, and how they can contribute to their clubs. Level 2 goes deeper into the membership, service, and leadership spirals, and Level 3 is more in-depth grooming for future Rotary leaders.

The Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute has tried to schedule RLI in La Plata several times before, and participant was always low, often causing it to be cancelled. Currently only two people are registered, and if there aren't more by the end of April, the La Plata session is also at risk of being cancelled. For this reason, please register early and encourage your fellow Rotarians to register as well. It's fun to do as a group.

The cost is \$95 per person, but our club has decided to reimburse the cost for our members who attend.

No Birthdays Found

Virtual Access

If you can't attend a meeting in person, feel free to join us virtually using the following link.
<https://businesstrainingworks.adobeconnect.com/rotary/>

For questions or assistance, contact Chris at 240-320-6694.

Rtn. Lucy Masiye Talks About Gender Based Violence

Wednesday, March 20, 2019



Lucy Masiye, a Rotarian from Lusaka, Zambia, talked to our club about her work with gender-based violence in Zambia. Despite progress, violence against women and children continues to be a problem, and human trafficking, a form of gender-based violence, still occurs, even in the US.

Lucy will be a more frequent visitor to our club as her daughter, who married an American, lives in Waldorf, and she recently had a baby. Although Lucy will return to Zambia at the end of March, we should expect to see her again in the future.

On a related topic, Women at Risk International will be presenting a program on human trafficking in Waldorf on March 30th. For more information see <https://warinternational.org/upcoming-events/cfr-training-waldorf-md-2019/>.

Rebuilding Together

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

On Wednesday, March 13th, Alvin Stewart, President and Board Chair of Charles County Rebuilding Together spoke to the club about recent efforts and future opportunities to get involved with helping needy families. Rebuilding Together Charles County, formerly known as Christmas in April, is the volunteer organization started in 1990 that, in partnership with the community, rehabilitates the houses of low-income homeowners, elderly and disabled, so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety, and independence.

Alvin, also the owner of the local Starbucks, is husband of County Commissioner Amanda Stewart. For more information see the Rebuilding Together website at <http://rtcharlescounty.org>.

National Building Day is Saturday, April 27th. Volunteers are sought and may sign up at the organization's website or Facebook page. - <https://www.facebook.com/Rebuilding-Together-Charles-County-202453229767027/>.

Also on the theme of helping homeless and needy, visiting guest Kate Heichler of Christ Church La Plata announced her effort to collect prom clothing for homeless teens, so they can enjoy the tradition of going to prom without the embarrassment of not having the appropriate attire. Collection will be at Christ Church on March 23 and 24 from 9am to 1pm. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/358880248171697/> for more details.

Past President "Smooth" Gordon Schrader Fundraises for Cancer Prevention

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

The La Plata Rotary Club was proud to donate \$2,300 to support Past President Gordon "Little Larry" Schrader of Fit Life Training LaPlata in his fundraising endeavor for the National Brain Tumor Society in memory of Kevin McKay. In total, Past President Gordon raised \$7,785 in support of Race for Hope.

As a challenge to the community, Gordon offered to shave his beard and head if he was able to raise more than \$2,500. Kevin was a local Charles County native who died of brain cancer on July 30, 2018.



The Race for Hope fundraising continues on May 5th with a 5k run starting at Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC. For more information about the Race for Hope see http://www.braintumorcommunity.org/site/TR?sid=2018&fr_id=3220&pg=informational. Or to make a donation, contact the Rotary Club of Charles County at LaPlataRotaryClub@gmail.com.

Charles County Talks Affordable Housing

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

On Wednesday, February 27th, Christina Pompa from Charles County Government's Planning & Growth Management, talked with the club about affordable housing in Charles County. The presentation centered on increasing public awareness about the need for affordable housing and engaging the public in a discussion on ways to improve it. This presentation was the second in two days on the topic as part of a campaign to raise awareness in the county.

Ms. Pompa said that there is a shortage of affordable housing in the county among working people and described how people in professions that include law enforcement, education, and social worker with a family of four, cannot easily find affordable housing. She defined affordable housing is that which is less than 30% of gross income. When someone pays more than 30% they are identified as housing-cost stressed, and when they pay more than 50% of their income on housing, they are highly housing-cost stressed. Several members participated in a lively discussion. One member asked about whether the county was investigating a municipal bond to convert existing housing to qualify as affordable, and another member asked about criteria used to qualify candidates for affordable housing and suggested that financial management training be incorporated into eligibility.

Rotary Looking Forward to Lobster Festival 2019

Wednesday, December 26, 2018



The Rotary Club of Charles County (La Plata) has announced the date of the 44th Annual Lobster Festival as Sunday, September 29th, 2019. This event has been taking place each year in Charles County since 1976 and is the club's largest fund raiser. Rotary is the world's largest and oldest community service organization and in 2018 the Lobster Festival raised more than \$64,000 that the Rotary Club will use to fund local projects.

In 2019 the Charles County Rotary expects to feature a performance by Trilogy, the same band that has performed each of the last few years. In addition to the food and drink, Rotary will again feature a silent auction, games of skills and chance.

Although tickets won't officially be for sale until the summer of 2019, you can reserve tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/44th-annual-rotary-club-lobster-festival-tickets-51942398111>.

2019 Rotary Convention-Capture the Moment in Hamburg Germany

By Catherine A Bender on Monday, December 31, 2018

Join Chris, Attie, and Melissa in Hamburg June 1-5th for the Rotary International Convention.

Registration is still open to attend the Annual Rotary Convention! This year it's in Hamburg, Germany.

register at www.riconvention.org/en

Attie and Melissa have been to a number of RI Conventions, and this will be PE Chris' third straight after having attended conventions in Atlanta and Toronto. The Rotary International Convention is a

great way to learn more about what Rotary is doing in the world, collaborate with other Rotarians, and gain energy and knowledge to start the Rotary Year.

For those unable to travel to Hamburg, Germany in 2019, please consider Hawaii in June 2020.

Club Meeting

Charles County (La Plata)
Meets at Green Turtle LaPlata
6 Street Mary's Avenue
La Plata, MD 20646
Time: Wednesday at 07:30 AM

