

# Leonardtown BEACON

A Publication for the Community of Historic Leonardtown ~ Est. 1660

## Calendar of Events

### JULY 4

Freedom Fest 2004  
County Fairgrounds

### JULY 8-11 & 15-19

LVFD Carnival  
Carnival Grounds

### AUGUST 12-15

'L'IL' Margaret's Bluegrass  
& Old Time Music Festival  
Goddard Farm

### AUGUST 14

Beach Party on the Square  
& LaFamilia Festival  
Leonardtown Square

### SEPTEMBER 11

Fall Follies  
Leonardtown Square

### SEPTEMBER 23-26

SMC Fair  
County Fairgrounds

### OCTOBER 15

LHS Homecoming Parade  
Leonardtown Square

### OCTOBER 16 & 17

SMC Oyster Festival  
County Fairgrounds

### OCTOBER 23

Trick-or-Treat on the Square  
Leonardtown Square

### NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Parade  
Leonardtown Square

### NOVEMBER 26

Christmas on the Square  
Leonardtown Square

### NOVEMBER 26-28

SMC Festival of Trees  
Bell Motor Co.

Come see what's  
new in historic  
Leonardtown!!!

## Featuring

### At Home in Leonardtown

## Leonardtown Wharf now known as the Leonardtown Landing Project

Expect to see changes at the area most known by many simply as "Leonardtown Wharf". On Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, a groundbreaking and reception was held at the "Wharf", which marks the beginning of the "Leonardtown Landing Project". Ron Russo

facilities, and docking slips for transient boats. The commercial portion will be developed by RAR Associates and will consist of shops, office space, a restaurant, and efficiency apartments.

Additionally, Mr. Russo recently renovated the existing "Abell House" located at the Wharf site, which was originally constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. RAR Associates applied to have the house entered on the National Register of Historic Places, and it was accepted for the Register in January 2004. The recent renovation retained the distinctive architectural features of the house, which earned a Historic Preservation Award in May 2004.

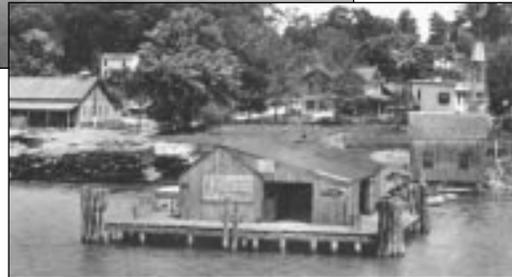
Let's embrace a bit of the history of Leonardtown Wharf. During the last 25 years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Leonardtown experienced a great deal of public and private improvements. Steamships and horse-drawn vehicles dominated transportation to

and from Leonardtown during the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Leonardtown Wharf was a major port for shipments of mail, clothing, produce, livestock, furniture, lumber, crushed stone, and many supplies and materials too numerous to name. Leonardtown remained more accessible by steamboat than by highway until 1910. In the 1880's, the steamships *Sue*, *Wakefield* and *Dorchester* served Leonardtown.

(Continued on page 7)



The James Adams Floating Theatre at Leonardtown Wharf about 1920.

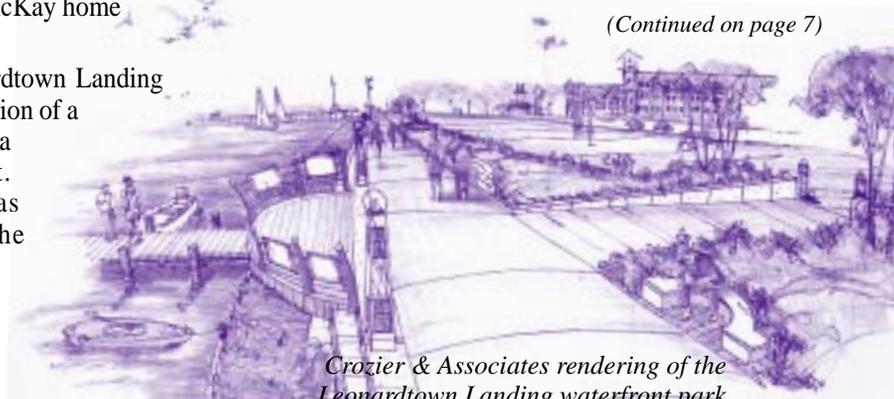


Turn-of-the-Century view of the Leonardtown Wharf waterfront.

of RAR Associates has received final approval of the concept plan for the Leonardtown Wharf revitalization and development project.

Phase I of the Leonardtown Landing Project will consist of construction of 26 townhouses on a bluff overlooking Breton Bay. Mr. Russo began construction of this phase of the project on May 25, 2004. In earlier days, the area along Breton Bay where the Townhouse units are currently being constructed was once the McKay home site.

Phase II of the Leonardtown Landing Project will be the construction of a public waterfront park and a commercial component. Crozier & Associates has provided a design for the Town's 3/4 acre public waterfront park, which will include open park area, picnic grove, kayak landing, public restroom



Crozier & Associates rendering of the Leonardtown Landing waterfront park.

## Mayor's Message

In the fast paced world we all live in it is easy to forget to step back and really take in all that is happening around us. The Town of Leonardtown, while still a small, quaint town atmosphere has become a highly desirable place to live, work and raise our families. Because of this attractiveness the Commissioners of Leonardtown strive to maintain the delicate balance of maintaining this quaintness and allowing for successful growth at the same time.

Each year I like to take the opportunity to bring each and every resident up-to-date on the many exciting things that are happening in our Town. As most of you have heard by now, one of our priority projects is the Leonardtown Wharf project. While many of us have fond memories of this site from our childhood, we may not remember the important role that this site played in our history. I hope you will find the feature article in this issue of the Beacon informative and reminiscent. The Council and I anticipate that the revival of this important asset will be a tremendous economic engine for the Town's continuing revitalization.

Each day I am asked the status of the three large parcels of farmland that have been slated for development in the next few years. All three of these parcels, Tudor Hall Farm, the Clark Farm and the Lindsey Farm, are currently under contract. The Town is pleased with the developers who have seen the potential that our Town has to offer and will work with us to develop these properties in a manner that is complimentary of our goals.

In addition to these larger projects there are also an ever-increasing number of individual projects that are moving forward within the Town to revitalize older properties and incorporate new development in a manner keeping with the charm of our small Town. We are pleased to welcome a number of new businesses, restaurants and offices into our community and wish them success.

With the benefits of new development comes a need for new and improved infrastructure and services. The Council and Staff have worked hard to proactively prepare for this new growth. Over the last couple of years we have completed a Water and Sewer Master Plan, an Impact Fee Study, a Parking Strategy, updated our Zoning Ordinance and are just completing an update to our Comprehensive Plan. All of this planning takes manpower and financial commitment, but the Council and I are committed to being prepared and managing the guaranteed growth that is coming our way. I would particularly like to thank our staff who has managed to complete many of these projects in-house, saving the taxpayers funds, while accomplishing all of the other day-to-day duties within the Town Office.

Together we can move forward and grow while ensuring that Leonardtown stays the quaint, small Town that we all know and love.



J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor



## Open Skate Nights

Like to roller skate? Enjoy "open skate nights" at Leonard Hall Recreation Center every Saturday evening mid-April through mid-December, 5 PM-7 PM. \$3 entry fee plus \$2.50 skate rental (or bring your own skates). For details call 301-475-4200, ext. 1800.

## Freedom Fest 2004

Crafts, concessions and a variety of entertainment, ending with a fireworks display at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5 PM. For details call 301-475-4632.

## LVFD Carnival

Bring the family to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Carnival, July 8, 9, 10, 11 and July 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19. Carnival grounds open 7 PM-10:30 PM. Games, bingo, prizes, carnival rides, nightly raffles, and food! Persons interested in volunteering should contact Roger Mattingly at 301-475-5966.

## Concert Lunch on the Town Square

Bring your lunch and relax in the Town Square on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> between 11:30 AM-12:30 PM and enjoy a special lunchtime concert performance by "Quintetto di Ottoni Lyskamm", an Italian brass ensemble from Aosta, Italy. The ensemble is a guest performer at the 2004 River Concert Series at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and will be performing at the college the same evening. Visit [www.riverconcertseries.com](http://www.riverconcertseries.com) for a complete River Concert schedule.

## "Honk"

Many of our local Leonardtown area students will be performing in the delightful tale of "Honk", this year's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Recreation and Parks Summerstock production. Shows will be held at Great Mills High School, July 29-Aug. 1 at 7 PM, with a 1 PM Saturday matinee. For tickets call 301-475-4200, ext. 1800.

## National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Leonard's Freehold community will participate in National Night Out, a nationwide program that encourages neighborhoods to come out and take a stand against crime. The program is coordinated with the National Association of Town Watch and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. Contact DFC Scott Mclean at 301-475-4200, ext. 9039 for details.

## "L'il" Margaret's Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival

Bluegrass and old time country music, classic cars, arts and crafts, home cooked food, and lots of fun can be found at this annual festival, August 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, at the Goddard Farm on Fairgrounds Road. Admission. Call 301-475-8191 for more information.

# Beach Party on the Square

## & La Familia Festival

Experience a tropical sensation at Leonardtown's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Beach Party on the Square" & "La Familia" Festival on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 4 PM - 9 PM. Have a great time with your family and friends enjoying live music, clowns, jugglers, volleyball, kids sand boxes, classic cars, games, prizes, fire truck hose downs, face painting, crafts, food, and more! You won't want to miss the Jazzercise and hula dance demonstrations, and a championship double-dutch performance by the "Greenbelt City Stars". Show off your talent in the jump rope, hula-hoop and limbo stick contests! Call the Town Office at 301-475-9791 for additional details. *Rain date: Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.*

## Fall Follies on the Square

Arts & Crafts enthusiasts! Check out the hand-made crafts at the Leonardtown Square on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM-3 PM. Available will be pottery, ceramics, jewelry, paintings, woodcrafts, baskets, glass, and much more! Various artisans will provide demonstrations throughout the day. Other attractions include face painting, fingerprinting by the Maryland State Police, food and more! The Crafts Guild of St. Mary's County sponsors this annual crafts festival. *Rain date: Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.*

## St. Mary's County Fair

Have fun at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's County Fair, September 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Home arts, garden, crafts, agriculture, livestock, 4-H exhibits, contests, entertainment, carnival attractions, food, and more! See the fair parade on Saturday. Sponsored by the St. Mary's County Fair Association. Admission. 301-475-2256.



## Veterans Day Parade Now Forming

Anyone interested in entering a marching group or float in Leonardtown's annual Veterans Day Parade on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, should contact Tom Warren, Parade Organizer, at [tom\\_155@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_155@hotmail.com) or the Town Office at 301-475-9791 for an application form.

## LVFD Christmas Tree Campaign

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department is continuing its Christmas Tree fund-raising campaign to purchase a 4' extension and decorations for the recently acquired pre-lit Christmas Tree to be placed in the Town Square. What an outstanding project the Fire Department has undertaken! Please consider supporting the Fire Department in its efforts to light up Leonardtown's "Town Square" with a beautiful tree for all to enjoy during the holidays! Tax-deductible donations should be made payable to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 50, Leonardtown, MD 20650, with the note "Christmas Tree Fund". Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, when Leonardtown will officially kick-off the holiday season with entertainment and the annual tree lighting in the Town Square.

## Volunteers & Performers Needed

The Town is always looking for volunteers and performers at Town events! Interested in helping out? Contact Linda Shepherd at [linda.shepherd@verizon.net](mailto:linda.shepherd@verizon.net) or call the Town Office at 301-475-9791.

## Mayor

J. Harry Norris, III

## Council Members

Walter R. Gillette, *Vice President*  
Charles R. Faunce  
J. Maguire "Mock" Mattingly III  
Leslie E. Roberts  
Walter Wise

## Town Office Staff

Laschelle Miller, *Town Administrator*  
Rebecca Sothoron, *Treasurer*  
Colleen Bonnel, *Planner*  
Jackie Post, *Fiscal Clerk*  
Victoria Berkshire, *Secretary*  
Linda Shepherd, *Public Relations & Events Coordinator*  
Barbara Dotson, *Grants Writer*  
Frank Marquart, *Town Deputy*  
Mark Grant, *Capital Project Coordinator*

## Waste Water Treatment Plant Staff

John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*  
Steve Woodburn, *Plant Operator*  
Timmy Lacey, *Plant Operator*  
Margaret Proctor, *Lab Technician*

## Planning & Zoning Board Members

Jean Moulds, *Chair*  
John "Jack" Candela  
Frank Fearnis  
Gary Simpson

## Board of Appeals

Dr. Herbert Winnick, *Chair*  
Massey Connelly  
Dr. William Icenhower  
Kristin Kraus  
Harry S. Lancaster, Jr.

## Meetings

**Town Council** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Upcoming meetings: July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

**Planning Commission** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month @ 3:30 p.m. in the Town Office. Upcoming meetings: July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

**Leonardtown Business Association** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, with alternating times and locations. Upcoming meetings: July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8



**Red Cross Month**

Mike Zabco, CEO of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross, accepts a proclamation by Mayor Norris, declaring March as National Red Cross month. Our local chapter is in need of blood donors and

volunteers. Contact the Red Cross at 301-934-2066 if you can help.

**Run & Fun Walk for Hospice**

What a turnout! Over 1,200 participants were registered in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Run & Fun Walk on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds of \$26,000 were raised to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's.



**Easter Festival**

A visit with the Easter Bunny brings out different emotions as expressed by Caleb and Carmen Hancock of Leonardtown at the Recreation & Parks' Easter Egg Festival on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Earth Day Celebration on the Square**

A warm, sunny day spirited this year's *Earth Day Celebration on the Square*, held on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. One of the highlights was the planting of a Liberty Elm Tree at the Courthouse, which was sponsored by the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District in memory of James B. "Jimmy" Beavan, a supervisor with the District for 45 years. Entertainment included the Bushwood Mill Band, Joe Norris & Joan Johnson, Fortune's Turn, Blond Ambition, Thistle Dancers, So. Md. Oriental Dance Association, Newtowne Players, a Puppet show, and many others! A special thank-you to our emcee, Randy Ritchie, the Maryland Arts Council, and all the participants who made this a great "Earth Day" celebration!



Members of the James Beavan family joined in the 2004 Earth Day Liberty Elm Tree Planting.



Canoe outings on Breton Bay were part of Leonardtown's 2004 Earth Day activities.



**Spring Fling XIX Car Show**

A leisurely day was spent at the Spring

Fling on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, as interested spectators came out to view the many classic and antique cars displayed around the Town Square. The St. Mary's Rod & Classic Car Club sponsors this annual car show to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's.

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Leonardtown Criterium**

Over 200 cyclists from the Mid-Atlantic area speedily pedaled around the Town at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Leonardtown Criterium, sponsored by the Patuxent Velo Bicycle Racing Club, on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.



**18<sup>th</sup> Annual SMC Crab Festival**

Crabs, crabs, and more crabs! With one of the largest festival attendances, this year's Crab Festival on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> was labeled "very successful" by the Leonardtown Lions



Club, sponsor of this annual seafood event.

**Soap Box Derby**

Racing excitement was seen on Fenwick Street at the 2004 Southern Maryland Soap Box Derby held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Stock Division winner Dusty Gebhardt and Super Stock Division winner Courtney Rayle, who were recognized at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. Pictured with Dusty & Courtney is Councilman Mock Mattingly. Our best wishes are extended to Dusty &



Courtney as they move on to represent Southern Maryland in the National All American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio on July 31<sup>st</sup>! The Town Council would like to applaud all the youth who participated in the Soap Box Derby, and acknowledge the Lexington Park Lions Club for another successful Derby!

## Local Student's Essay Selected for "If I Were Mayor" Contest

Congratulations to Miss Melanie Johnson, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student of Mrs. Kristin Caton at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School, for her winning essay (District 4) in the "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." contest! The Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors' Association sponsor this statewide essay contest, which is open to 4th grade students throughout Maryland to creatively use their grade-specific language arts skills and civics/social studies knowledge. You can view Melanie's essay on-line by visiting [www.mdmunicipal.org/programs/contestwinners.cfm](http://www.mdmunicipal.org/programs/contestwinners.cfm)

## 2004 Town Election Results

Congratulations to Walt Gillette and Charles Faunce, returning Council members, and to Leslie E. Roberts, a former member of the Town's Planning Commission, who were elected to serve on the Town Council for a two-year term. Elections for the three Leonardtown Town Council seats were held on Tuesday, May 4, 2004. The three council members were sworn into office by Mayor Norris at the regular Commissioner meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Vice-President Gillette Receives SMMA Service Award



Stewart Cumbo, President of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, presents Councilman Walt Gillette with an award for his service as Vice-President of the Southern Maryland Municipal Association at the annual

SMMA dinner hosted by the Town of Leonardtown on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## 4-Star Pizza Celebrates

4-Star Pizza celebrates their 10<sup>th</sup> year in business, and their new location in Town with a Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to try the all-you-can-eat pizza buffet and salad bar, with in-house dining and take-out! 301-475-1600.



## "Leonardtown Disability Awareness Award"

Mayor Norris presents Leonardtown's first "Leonardtown Disability Awareness Award" to the St. Mary's County Memorial Library-Leonardtown Branch, for their outstanding leadership role in creating employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Accepting the award for the Library were Mary Lee Russell, Marylyn Lash, and Kathleen Reif.



## Newtowne Village News

Residents of Newtowne Village will certainly miss Foo Tippet, who managed this senior facility over the past seven years. Mayor Norris and Deputy Marquart extended best wishes to Foo.



## Leonardtown Businesses Receive 2004 Chamber of Commerce Awards



Loic and Karleen Jaffres, Chef Owners of the **Café des Artistes**, a fine dining restaurant in Leonardtown, beam after receiving the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce 2004 Beacon Award presented at the Annual Business Showcase on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Also present to delight in the award, was Stephane Jaffres, Chef Garde Manger. The Beacon Award is designed to recognize a successful small business that has shown growth and leadership in its industry. Félicitations!!

Congratulations also to the **First National Bank of St. Mary's** for receiving the Chamber's 2004 Community Service Award, which recognizes an ever-present willingness to support and be a part of the community at every level. Bill Sturgis, President and CEO of the bank, accepted the award at the Business Showcase on May 5<sup>th</sup>.



## Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Needs Your Help!

Plans are underway for the Rescue Squad's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's County Festival of Trees. This year's festival fund-raising proceeds will go toward the purchase of a much-needed new ambulance. You can help by supporting the Festival of Trees, to be held November 26<sup>th</sup> through November 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bell Motor Co. Show Room. If you would like to donate a decorated tree or wreath for the silent auction, please contact Johnny Coombs at 301-475-2209 or Dudley Lindsley at 301-373-2551.

The Rescue Squad is also undertaking a photograph exhibit to be displayed at this year's Festival of Trees. If you have captured moments in time showing events, buildings and landmarks of the town or the county as it has changed throughout the years, and would like to share these treasures with the community at the Festival of Trees, please contact Janice Crager at 301-475-8586.

## “Summer Nights” on Fenwick Street

Many of Leonardtown’s unique shops will remain open until 9:00 PM on Saturday, July 3rd and Saturday, August 7th for shopping, dining, entertaining and socializing. There will also be sidewalk music, live theatrical performances by the Newtowne Players, and an artists reception at the North End Gallery.

## New EAP Counseling/Drug Testing Office

Quinn & Associates, an Employee Assistance Program provider for St. Mary’s County, has opened a new office at 26005 Point Lookout Road, next door to the Maryland Antiques Center. Call 301-475-2222 to schedule counseling or drug testing appointments.

## Police News

Town Deputy, Frank Marquart, will be out and about in Leonardtown enforcing the speed limit. One area of special attention will be Point Lookout Road in Town, where the posted speed limit is 40 MPH. Speeders will be ticketed. Deputy Marquart also reminds drivers and pedestrians to be alert, look out for each other and obey traffic laws. Additionally, one of the life-size chef statues has been stolen from outside of Café des Artistes. Call the Town Office with any information that will help solve this case.

## Staff Welcome

The Town welcomes Mark Grant, who was recently employed as Capital Project Coordinator. Mark graduated from West Virginia University with a Masters of Science, Environmental Engineering, and will be assisting the Town with existing and upcoming development projects and issues.



## Moratorium on Using Town Fire Hydrants for Pool Water

Currently, there is a moratorium on obtaining water for pools from the Town’s fire hydrants. If you see any pool company truck retrieving water from any of the Town’s fire hydrants, please contact the Town Office immediately at 301-475-9791.

## Home Improvements Require Permits!

Before starting your exciting & new home improvement project, including sheds, decks and other home additions, contact Colleen Bonnel, Town Planner at 301-475-9791 to obtain a building permit.

## Leonardtown Business Association

The Leonardtown Business Association (LBA) strives to bring people into Leonardtown and promote business in Leonardtown. This is done mainly through cooperative efforts, promotion, and Town events. Members receive monthly updates on what’s happening in Leonardtown, and can participate in advertising specials. Contact Dan Burris, LBA President, at 301-475-3151 or [danburris@danburris.com](mailto:danburris@danburris.com) for more information and to join the LBA.

## Health Connections Van in Town

Visit the Health Connections Outreach Center Van the second Wednesday of each month from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Town Square. Upcoming dates are July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13. For more information, call Health Connections at 301-475-6019.

## New at the Good Earth Natural Foods Company

Introducing organic wines from Frey Vineyards! These wines are produced to the most stringent USDA Certified Organic standards, contain no added sulfites, and are some of the finest wines produced in California. Frey wines are now available at the Good Earth Natural Foods on the Square in Leonardtown. 301-475-1630.

## St. Mary’s County Historical Society Announces Summer Hours

The historic Tudor Hall Mansion will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 AM-4 PM; the Research Center will be open Thursdays & Fridays from 12:00 Noon-4 PM and Saturdays 10 AM-4 PM; and the Old Jail Museum will be open Thursdays from 12 Noon-2 PM. Volunteers are needed! Please call 301-475-2467 if you would like additional information or are interested in volunteering.

## Trash Pickup and Recycling Reminders

**Residential trash** pickups are scheduled every Tuesday and Friday. In the event of a Waste Management holiday, pickups will be deferred to Wednesday and Saturday for that week. Please have your trash in acceptable 30-gallon cans with lids, or cans on wheels. Bagged trash set on the ground is also acceptable. To guarantee collection, trash should be set out by 7:00 a.m. on the day of pick-up.

The next **quarterly bulk trash** pickup is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2004.

**Residential recycling** pickups of old newspapers, glass bottles, jars, metal and aluminum cans, and approved plastic bottles are made on Thursdays. In the event of a Waste Management holiday, recycling pickups will be deferred to Friday for that week.

Waste Management will be closed on Labor Day, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, and Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Town Office for further information on trash service, recycling, or to obtain a recycling container.

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## Featuring Leonardtown Wharf at Home in Leonardtown

*(Continued from page 1)*

In 1885, the Leonardtown Joint Stock and Transportation Company of St. Mary's County managed Leonardtown Wharf. This increased the tempo of activity at the Wharf and spawned other adjacent development, including the construction of the buildings known as the Jager House (also known as Abell House), St. Mary's Ice and Fuel Company, the Johnson/McNey House, the Clements House, the Tuiniman House, and the Sparke/Holley House. Among the businesses that flourished at the top of Wharf Hill during its heyday were Thrift Oil Company and Spalding's Barbershop. Among the businesses at the bottom of the hill were the St. Mary's Ice and Fuel Company, Meadow Gold Ice Cream Plant, (which was housed in an old tobacco barn), and the Leonardtown Wharf Restaurant. The restaurant was built in the 1940's by Frank Combs. Later operators included Lou Burris, Ray Spicer, Ray Light, and Jim Cryer. Fire destroyed this building in 1985. The St. Mary's Ice and Fuel Company, owned by the George Godwin family, was a major business that prospered at Leonardtown Wharf. Portions of the property are still owned by the Godwin family, and their cooperation has been invaluable to this project.

Personal accounts by Leonardtown residents recall that many famous people visited the Leonardtown area by boat, and that Presidential yachts could also be seen docked at the Wharf. Ferryboats also frequented the Breton Bay waters. One interesting ferry connection was the appearance of Virginia couples wishing to marry in Leonardtown. For much of the first 25 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the cultural and entertainment highlight in Leonardtown came in the form of the *James Adams Floating Theatre*. This 850 capacity showboat offered performances and band concerts, captivating audiences every summer at Leonardtown Wharf from 1915 to 1940. With the rise in popularity in alternative modes of transportation and other infrastructure improvements, activity at the Wharf began to decline. By the late 1980's, use of this property had greatly diminished. Renewed interest in redevelopment of the property in 2000 launched the collaboration between the St. Mary's County Commissioners and the Town of Leonardtown.

In the fall of 2001, the Commissioners of Leonardtown pursued and received a \$104,000 Community Legacy grant to demolish the deteriorated buildings located on the Leonardtown Wharf property to encourage development of the property. This waterfront

parcel of land, in close proximity to the downtown business district, has enormous potential for a mixed use development. Aubrey Mattingly Excavating was awarded the contract and began the work in November of 2002. RAR Associates and the Town have been finalizing the design for the Leonardtown Landing Project since that time. Many meetings with State officials will help to ensure a quality project for everyone, as well as a significant improvement environmentally to this property. In May of 2004, the Town received a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources, Waterway Improvement Fund. Additionally, the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners have pledged \$1.0 million toward the public park development.

To date, the Leonardtown Landing Project has had tremendous public support and has successfully moved forward toward becoming a reality. Town officials look forward to this development, and are eager to begin the public waterfront park. This area is certain to be a tourist attraction, as well as an economic engine to the Town of Leonardtown and St. Mary's County. This waterfront development will greatly enhance the continuing revitalization efforts of Leonardtown's downtown area, including the Town Square, and the Port of Leonardtown on McIntosh Run, with plans to eventually tie into the conference center, golf course and homes at the proposed Tudor Hall project. It is expected that this area will have a tremendous draw from boat traffic, as well as vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Two aspirations of former Council member Becky Proffitt were to stage shows from a floating theatre and to discharge fireworks from a barge - mixing a bit of "old memories" to create "new memories". The Town is currently pursuing the return of a floating theatre, with funding through the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Tourism Management Plan.

With recent progress at the site, the view as you drive down Wharf Hill is even more breathtaking than before! Stop by the Town Hall and ask to see detailed drawings and artist's renderings of Leonardtown's exciting waterfront project!

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Portions of this article courtesy of Aleck Loker, from his book, "A Most Convenient Place: Leonardtown 1650-1950", available for purchase in the Town Hall.

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Leonardtown's Mayor Harry Norris and County Commissioner Tom Mattingly present Ron Russo with the Historic Preservation Award in front of the recently renovated Abell House.



Over 200 citizens enjoyed the Leonardtown Landing groundbreaking and reception on May 11th. Many thanks are extended to the Town's businesses for their participation, and the Leonardtown High School Jazz Band for providing music.



Local elected officials and Linda Godwin Gill break ground for the Leonardtown Landing Project.

Summer 2004

## What are our Residents Asking?

### **What is the Town's drinking water quality, and how can we help to conserve water?**

As everyone knows, we must do what we can to protect and conserve this valuable natural resource. The Town implements a comprehensive assessment of our water operations management and safeguards, routinely monitors the drinking water for contaminants, and takes corrective actions to ensure the most protective water system for our residents as possible. The Town's drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. The source of Leonardtown's drinking water is the Aquia Aquifer. The Town of Leonardtown provides an annual water quality report according to Federal regulations, which outlines the quality of our drinking water and the meaning of the quality. A complete copy of the Town's latest Annual Water Quality Report is available in the Town office or on-line at [www.somd.com/leonardtown](http://www.somd.com/leonardtown).

There are numerous benefits to drinking plenty of water daily, including non-caloric intake, and we all owe it to ourselves to make this a habit in our daily routine. As summer approaches, many will take advantage of the season by running, walking, biking, playing tennis, and enjoying other physically demanding activities. Keep in mind that prolonged physical activity and heat exposure increases water loss, thereby raising our daily fluid needs. Dehydration can occur when the body loses too much fluid. Symptoms of dehydration can range from extreme thirst and dry mouth to fatigue, muscle pain and spasms, headaches, vomiting and dizziness.

### **Your questions are important to us!**

Let us know if you have a question about the Town you would like answered in a future issue of the Leonardtown Beacon.

Call the Town Office at 301-475-9791, or e-mail:

[Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net](mailto:Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net)

### **Here are a few steps you can take to help prevent dehydration from setting in:**

- Drink water before, during and after exercise.
- Do not drink caffeinated or alcoholic beverages before a workout.
- Drink water every 20 minutes or so when engaged in strenuous physical activity.
- Do not take salt tablets.
- Stop working out at first signs of dizziness, lightheadedness, or fatigue.

### **By making simple changes in our daily routines, we can all contribute to protecting this precious resource for future generations.**

- Water your lawn early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.
- Don't over-water your lawn.
- Fully load the dishwasher and clothes washer before operating.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave instead of running hot water over food.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- If you have a swimming pool, use a cover to reduce the loss of water through evaporation.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.
- Keep your shower under 5 minutes.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.

# Leonardtown BEACON

## *Commissioners of Leonardtown*

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