

Leonardtowntown BEACON

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

Calendar of Events

MARCH 25

Disability Awareness Day
Governmental Center

APRIL 8

11th Run & Fun Walk for Hospice
Governmental Center

APRIL 15

Easter Egg Festival & Hunt
Governmental Center

APRIL 23

Earth Day Celebration
Leonardtowntown Square

APRIL 30

Spring Fling XXI Classic Car Show
Leonardtowntown Square

MAY 4 - MAY 7

13th So. Md. Spring Festival
SMC Fairgrounds

MAY 21

11th Criterium Bicycle Races
Leonardtowntown Square

JUNE 10

Soap Box Derby
Fenwick Street

JUNE 11

19th SMC Crab Festival
Governmental Center

JUNE 14

Flag Day Celebration
Governmental Center

AUGUST 5

Beach Party on the Square
Leonardtowntown Square

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

At Home in Leonardtown featuring . . .

Farewell to Pennie's

Pennie's - a place where everybody knew your name - has closed its doors. Most folks who lived in Leonardtown back in 1951 when Pennie's opened their doors will surely reminisce about all the good times and all the great people they met.

Located on Route 5 in Leonardtown, the "little tavern" with its restaurant and ball field, was originally owned and operated by Charles "Pennie" and Priscilla "Boots" Pennisi. Their hard work from its beginning in 1951 and thru the 50's took them to another era in the 60's, with the addition of a dance hall. The addition accommodated the already existing restaurant business, and afforded opportunities for catering, weddings, receptions, dancing, weekend bands, sports gatherings, and other social and charitable events.

In 1973, when it came time for Pennie and Boots to retire, they turned the family business over to their daughter Donna and her husband, Jackie Norris. Throughout the years, Donna's brother, Andy, was always available to help whenever they needed him.

Pennie's stadium was home to the St. Mary's County Rocking Chair Softball League, Women's Softball League, and Young Men's Softball League, hosting many local and regional softball games and tournaments, T-Ball All-Star games, and the annual Budweiser tournament, which raised funds donated to local charities. Pennie's also sponsored numerous



Pennie's Restaurant/Bar in 1951.

county softball, baseball, pool, dart and shuffleboard teams. Some will remember enjoying special events under the lights, such as games with the Clement's Cuties, the California Cuties, and an occasional donkey softball game. The final games on the ball field were held on October 30, 2005, when Pennie's hosted the annual Trossbach Family Coed Softball Tournament.

With the support of so many wonderful people, the family business thrived for 54 years. However, with the many changes occurring in our county today, Donna and Jackie saw the need to bow out gracefully and closed their doors on December 31, 2005.

Continued to page 7



Pennie and Boots in 1991.



Town Councilman "Tub" Delahay presents Donna and Jackie with a proclamation recognizing the family of Pennie's as contributors toward their community for over 54 years.



Andy Pennisi takes time from work to attend Leonardtown's 2005 Veteran's Day Parade.



The 1958 Little League Baseball Team, sponsored by the Leonardtown Lions Club, following a game on Pennie's field. Can you spot Mayor Harry "Chip" Norris or County Commissioner Tom Mattingly? Perhaps you are pictured or recognize many of the players.

Mayor's Message

For those of us who have grown up in Leonardtown and have seen the ups and downs that the Town has experienced, the last 10 years of resurgence has been a rewarding sight. It is easy to see the many signs of growth and revitalization as you stroll the downtown square or drive along any of the streets in Leonardtown. Everyday the Council and I strive to achieve a balance of offering the needed services for the Town residents while maintaining a reasonable tax rate. I was pleased to receive the 2005 Department of Legislative Services Tax report which details tax rates of all counties and municipalities in Maryland. In Fiscal Year 2005, the combined county and municipal rate for Leonardtown residents was \$1.028 (\$.878 County and \$.15 Town). Of the 156 municipalities in Maryland, only eight have a lower combined tax rate than Leonardtown. Four of these are in Talbot County, and only one has a higher population than Leonardtown.

The Council and I are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our Town over the past 10 years. These accomplishments stand out even more when we realize that we have maintained a very low tax rate that is recognized as one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the State of Maryland.


J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor



Disability Awareness Day

"High Hopes for Everyone!"
Designed to increase disability awareness, this event will be held on Saturday, March 25th at the Leonard Hall Recreation Center from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Free kites and door prizes! Sponsored by the Commission for People with Disabilities. For details call 301-475-4200, ext. 1800.

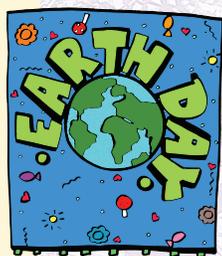
11th Annual Hospice Run & Fun Walk

Southern Maryland's largest running event will be held on Saturday, April 8th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Run starts and finishes at the Governmental Center, with a 10K Run through a scenic country road course, and a 5K Run & Fun Walk on the streets of Historic Leonardtown.

Children, strollers, and pets are welcome. Proceeds benefit Hospice of St. Mary's. Awards to top winners, door prizes, food, balloons, music and fun! Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. or pre-register on-line at <http://www.runforhospice.org>.

Easter Egg Festival & Hunt

Egg hunts, carnival attractions, prizes, food, and the Easter Bunny on the lawn of the Governmental Center, Saturday, April 15th, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \$1 hunt fee. All ages! Call 301-475-4200, ext. 1800 for details.



Celebration on the Square

A celebration of Earth Day will be held on the Town Square on Sunday, April 23rd, from 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, music, canoeing and kayaking on Breton Bay, seated massages, face painting, children's crafts, and more! Obtain information on recycling, organic gardening, pesticide-free produce, conservation and environmental programs. Flowers, plants, fresh herbs, homemade jams and relishes will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Leonardtown Business Association. For more information call 301-475-9791.

Come on Out!

Spring Fling XXI Classic Car Show

Classic and antique cars and street rods will be on display around the Town Square on Sunday, April 30th, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Trophies awarded for best of class, best of show, people's choice, foreign car, pedal car class, and model car contest. Kids can enjoy a tractor pull, games and prizes. Donations accepted to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's. Sponsored by the St. Mary's Rod and Classic Car Club. To register your classic coupe' or for additional details contact Bill Higgs at 301-994-9666, or on-line <http://stmarysrodandclassic.com> (Rain date Sunday, May 7)



13th Annual So. Md. Spring Festival

Enjoy music, crafters, carnival rides, a parade, car show, food and more at the So. Md. Spring Festival, Thursday, May 4th-Sunday, May 7th. This annual festival is held at the County Fairgrounds and is sponsored by Holy Face Church. Admission. Call 301-994-0525 for details.

11th Annual Leonardtown Criterium Bicycle Races

Bicycling excitement at its best! See USCF bicycle racing on the streets of historic downtown Leonardtown on Sunday, May 21st beginning at 8:00 a.m.! Races feature over 200 cyclists from the Maryland, Delaware, DC, and Virginia areas. This year's edition is the Mid-Atlantic Bicycle Racing Association Championships. Kids 10 and under can bring their bike or trike and participate in age-grouped sprint races @ 11:30 a.m.! Helmets are required, and parents must be present to sign a release. Prizes for all kid racers! Admission is free. Sponsored by the Patuxent Velo Bicycle Racing Club and the Southern Maryland Cycling Club to benefit Special Olympics of St. Mary's. For race registration and details, call 301-452-2342 or go on-line at <http://www.paxvelo.com>.



Annual Spring Art Show at the Maryland Antiques Center

The Maryland Antiques Center will hold its Annual Spring Art Show on Saturday, April 8th from Noon-4:00 p.m. For details and a complete listing of their 2006 calendar of events and shows, call 301-475-1960 or go on-line <http://www.paxp.com/mac>. The Maryland Antiques Center and The Tea Room is located at 26005 Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown.



The 2006 Southern Maryland Soap Box Derby will be held on Saturday, June 10th, with races beginning at 9:00 a.m. on "Derby Hill" (Fenwick Street) in Leonardtown. Derby participants are boys and girls between the ages of 8-17 who build and race their derby car. Division winners have an opportunity to race and represent Southern Maryland in the 69th Annual All-American Soap Box Derby, which will be held in Akron, Ohio on July 22nd. Details about the All-American Soap Box Derby can be found online at <http://aasbd.com>. This "family togetherness" project and exciting event is sponsored by the Lexington Park Lions Club. For local derby registration, kits, and requirements, contact Chris Hayden, Southern Maryland Derby Director, at 301-934-3659.

19th Annual SMC Crab Festival

Enjoy hot steamed crabs, seafood and non-seafood items at the annual St. Mary's County Crab Festival! The festival will be held on Sunday, June 11th, Noon-5:00 p.m., on the grounds of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown. Entertainment includes live music, classic cars, crafts, and more! Admission, plus cost of food. Sponsored by the Leonardtown Lions Club. For information call 301-475-5236.

Have Fun Volunteering at Town Events!

Would you like to volunteer or participate at any of the events on the Town Square? For details and to obtain a 2006 event calendar, contact Linda Shepherd at 301-475-9791, or e-mail linda.shepherd@verizon.net. This is also a great opportunity for high school students to earn those needed community service credits!

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Flag Day Celebration



Celebrate Flag Day on Wednesday, June 14th! A patriotic program pledging allegiance to the American flag begins at 6:00 p.m. on the Governmental Center lawn. For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 1341.

Beach Party on the Square

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 5th, and have a great time at Leonardtown's annual "Beach Party on the Square"! You won't want to miss the live music and entertainment, sand volleyball play, fire truck hose-downs, jump rope and hula-hoop contests, crafts, games, and more! For all ages! Watch for more details in the summer edition of the *Beacon*!

2006 Maryland to Kentucky Reunion

In 1785, a group of families from Southern Maryland migrated to Kentucky in search of land and religious freedom. The first reunion of the descendants of the Maryland to Kentucky pioneers was held in Nazareth, Kentucky in 1990. St. Mary's County hosted the reunion in 1992 and 2000. On July 14th, 15th, and 16th, the 2006 Maryland to Kentucky Reunion returns to St. Mary's County with a "Welcome Home" reception on the grounds of historic Tudor Hall. The reunion attracts over 500 genealogists and their families who will be traveling from all over the country to see the land their forefathers left behind, research their roots, and meet their St. Mary's County "cousins".

You are welcome to attend the reunion activities and meet these pioneer descendants. Registration forms, a schedule of events, and history of the reunion can be obtained by e-mailing mdtoky@yahoo.com or visiting the reunion web page at <http://www.geocities.com/mdtoky/page1.html>. Information will also be available at the Town Office.

Town Council

J. Harry Norris, III, *Mayor*
Walter Wise, *Vice-President*
Bernard Y. "Tub" Delahay
Charles R. Faunce
J. Maguire "Mock" Mattingly III
Leslie E. Roberts

Town Office Staff

Laschelle Miller, *Town Administrator*
Rebecca Sothoron, *Treasurer*
Colleen Bonnel, *Planner*
Jackie Post, *Fiscal Clerk*
Teri Dimsey, *Executive Secretary*
Jeannine Peele, *Town Secretary*
Linda Shepherd, *Public Relations & Events Coordinator*
Barbara Dotson, *Grants Writer*
Mark Grant, *Capital Project Coordinator*
Gray Maloy, *Town Deputy*

Utilities Staff

John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*
Timmy Lacey, *Asst. Superintendent*
William Shreve, *Plant Operator*
David Caron, *Maintenance Technician*

Planning & Zoning Commission

Jean Moulds, *Chair*
Frank Fearn, *Vice-Chair*
John "Jack" Candela
Tom Collier
Gary Simpson

Board of Appeals

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

Meetings

Town Council - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Planning Commission - 3rd Monday of each month @ 3:30 p.m. in the Town Office. *Jan. 17, *Feb. 21, Mar. 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18 (*Tuesday-in observance of holiday)

Leonardtown Business Association - 2nd Wednesday of each month, with alternating times and locations. Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

Town E-Mail:

Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net

Town Website

Leonardtown.somd.com

Winter 2005 /
Spring 2006



Community Highlights



Trick-or-Treat on the Square

Kids had a great time making their life-size scarecrow with the Old Towne Crafters, and trick-or-treating the merchants on the square on October 29th.

Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Draws Largest Crowd Ever!

The Town Square was alive with patriotism! Over 8,000 spectators came out to salute our Veterans, greet the Clydesdales, and enjoy the marchers and all the entries in the 2005 Veterans Day Parade! This year's parade and ceremony honored wounded servicemen and women of the Iraq War. Among the Veterans and special guests in attendance were CH Col. Richard W. Bower, SPC Duval Diaz, and Sgt. Harry Weaver, soldiers wounded in action and recuperating at the Walter Reed Army Hospital. Inspiring remarks by dignitaries commemorating Veterans Day included Mayor Harry Norris, Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele, Commissioner President Thomas McKay, Congressman Steny Hoyer, Senator Roy Dyson, and Captain Zachary Henry, Commanding Officer of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

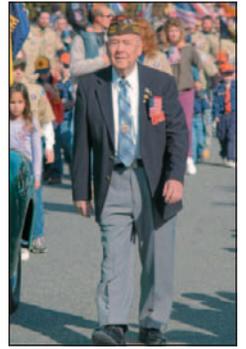
The Commissioners of Leonardtown and the St. Mary's County Commissioners extend a special thank-you to the Parade Coordinator Tom Warren, Clancy Lyall, VFW Post 2632, American Legion Post 255, SMC Sheriff's Department, STS Transportation, Brinsfield Funeral Home, Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, the College of Southern Maryland, SMC Fair Board, Julie Trask, Anheuser-Busch, Strike VX-23, Mistress Brent Garden Club, Mary Washington, Becky Norris, Lauren Norris, Leonardtown H.S. Marching Band, Chief Walking Bear Downey, the P.G. Co. Police Pipe Band, parade assembly volunteers, parade participants, staff, and all Veteran organizations who made this such a successful event! We are forever grateful to the men and women who have served, and are currently serving, our great nation!



The world-famous Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales were a special attraction in this year's parade, thanks to 2005 Hometown Heroes sweepstakes winner, Julie Trask, who is seated with the team, along with

her husband John. During their St. Mary's weekend, the Clydesdales also showed at the Fairgrounds, on Mervell Dean Road, and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. According to Clydesdale team members, their visit to St. Mary's County and Leonardtown "has been the best small town visit and parade for 2005."

Robert L. Miedzinski, life-long resident of Leonardtown, marches each year in the Veterans Day Parade. Mr. Miedzinski is the State Sergeant-At-Arms (1997-present) and a former member of the State Honor Guard (1967-1997) of the Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and is also a member of VFW Post 2632, California, MD.



American Legion Post #221 Color Guard from Avenue, MD is an annual participant in the Veterans Day Parade.



Leonardtown Elementary School 5th grade student, Nicole Clarke, delivers her essay, "What Veteran's Day Means To Me", while Mayor Norris and Kelly Hall, LES Principal, look on. (LES students Aaron Johnson, Rebecca Sachs, and Maria Williams also recited their essays.)



The Leonardtown High School Marching Band performed patriotic melodies during the Parade and the Memorial Ceremony. (The marching bands of Chopticon High School and Great Mills High School also performed in the Parade.)

SPC Duval Diaz, and Town Council Members Mock Mattingly, Charlie Faunce and Leslie Roberts place wreaths on the Veterans War Memorial.



Congressman Steny Hoyer, Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, Senator Roy Dyson, and County Commissioners Tom McKay, Dan Raley and Kenny Dement, lay a wreath in honor of our fallen Veterans at the War Memorial.

A surprise visit by the Clydesdales brought excitement and smiles to residents of the St. Mary's Nursing Center.



2005 Christmas on the Square and Annual Tree Lighting

Brrrrr . . . what a wintry night! Still, merry smiles shone bright as thousands came to Leonardtown on November 25th to enjoy the holiday festivities around the Town Square and lighting of the Christmas Tree! The performers were real troopers, as they sang, pantomimed, strummed instruments, and danced with frosty fingers and toes! On stage were Becky Norris, Lauren Norris, Rebecca Hill, Heather Greer, Sarah Meagher, the Hollywood Church of the Nazarene STICKS Drama, the Brenzo Family, Father Andrew White and Mother Catherine Spalding School Chorus, Leonardtown Baptist Church Choir, College of Southern Maryland Guitar Club, Gracie's Guys & Gals, and Philip the Juggler. Other holiday favorites around the Square included fire truck, train, sleigh, and carriage rides, costumed characters, Christmas crafts, a live nativity, petting zoo, ice sculpture demonstration, freshly popped kettle korn, and piping hot chocolate! Many thanks to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, the Leonardtown Business Association, and all the merchants, sponsors, performers, participants, and volunteers who helped in any way to ensure the success of this popular event!



All bundled up and enjoying a brisk horse & carriage ride around the Town Square.



Faces were beaming as Santa lit the Town Christmas Tree high above the crowd!



Children huddled around Mrs. Claus to hear stories of Christmas.



Gracie's Guys & Gals Dance Troupe tapped in concert as they performed "A Rock-n-Roll Christmas".

"Operation Mississippi Christmas" A Huge Success!

The Town is proud of the overwhelming kindness displayed by county citizens who participated in hurricane relief efforts that resulted in donations of over 1,000 Christmas gift boxes and \$50,000 in gift cards delivered to school children of D'Iberville, Mississippi. The lives of so many children were touched, and all who were involved will long remember the tears of joy from the children, teachers and parents. The energy of Joe St. Clair and Don Cropp in organizing and administering the St. Mary's Hurricane Relief effort was truly inspiring. We would also like to commend Guy Curley, Wayne Davis, Jim Bacot, Vince Whittles, Frank Taylor, Reggie Townsend, Scott Taylor and Mary Ann St. Clair for joining Joe and Don and making the trip to D'Iberville to deliver



This class of D'Iberville students enjoyed a holly jolly visit from Frosty and Santa, while anxiously awaiting their gifts!

the gifts to the children. For photos and more information on Operation Mississippi Christmas and the St. Mary's County Hurricane Relief Fund visit the website at www.smc-hurricane-relief-fund.org.

SMC Festival of Trees

Decorated trees and wreaths exhibited holiday ambiance during the 8th Annual St. Mary's County Festival of Trees held November 25th-27th in the showroom of the Bell Motor Company. This year's festival raised over \$10,000 for the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad. Anyone interested in volunteering on the 2006 Festival of Trees planning committee should call Dudley Lindsey at 301-373-2551.



Recycled CDs bedecked the Good Earth Natural Foods Company's entry in the Festival of Trees. The decorated CDs were an Earth Day project of Girl Scout Troop #182 of Mechanicsville, MD.



Dick Russell sorts through gifts collected for delivery to 87 needy children in the 2005 "Christmas Caring Program". The Leonardtown Lions Club, in conjunction with St. Mary's Ryken High School, has sponsored this program for 27 years.

The Duffy family, and over 300 boys and girls, enjoyed a delightful visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on the Town Square on December 17th.



Winter 2005 / Spring 2006

The Old Towne Crafters received the 2005 "Best Dressed



Best Dressed Window Award

Window Award". Bonnie Gallant and Judy Dhillon of the St. Mary's Crafts Guild accepted the plaque on behalf of the crafters at the Council meeting on January 9, 2006.



Town Businesses

Keep Your Customers From Slipping!!

Thankfully, we've had a mild winter! In the event we encounter inclement weather, the Town reminds all businesses to clear snow, ice or other debris off your sidewalks. This will help protect your customers from an unfortunate tumble, as well as your business!



Arizona Pizza Now Open!

Enjoy casual dining with a Southwestern theme! The restaurant, located in Leonardtown Centre, opened its doors on January 23rd. Serving lunch and dinner, the menu features wood-fired pizzas, a variety of appetizers, pasta, salads, and sandwiches. For take-out orders call 301-997-1700.

Leonardtown Business Association

Congratulations to the 2006 LBA Officers! Dan Burris, President, *Burris Olde Towne Insurance*; Dan Norris, Vice President, *DRN Environmental Solutions*; Brenda Wise, Secretary, *B. A. Wise Consulting*; and Sonia Zidzik, Treasurer, *Z-Boutique*.

The Leonardtown Business Association is looking for new members! Businesses both inside and outside of the incorporated limits are welcome! Yearly dues are only \$100. Goals of the Leonardtown Business Association include drawing awareness to Leonardtown businesses and promoting the economic, professional, cultural, and civic welfare of Leonardtown. The LBA meets every second Wednesday of the month at varying times and businesses. Contact Dan Burris, LBA President, at 301-475-3151 or danburris@danburris.com for more information or if you would like to join the Leonardtown Business Association.



Leonardtown Beacon

"If I Were Mayor, I Would . . ." MML Wants to Hear Your Ideas!

The Maryland Municipal League's Communication Committee sponsors an essay contest open to Maryland fourth grade students enrolled in the 2005-2006 school year, which lets students tell others how they would involve citizens, control growth and protect the quality of life in their town. One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout the State. Winners receive a \$250 savings bond and will be recognized at the statewide Municipal Government Celebration in May. Essay entries are due no later than April 1, 2006, and may be submitted to the Town Office or mailed to Mayor's Contest, Maryland Municipal League, 1212 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. For further information, contact the Town Office or visit the MML website at www.mdmunicipal.org.

Grease . . . Bad for Your Pipes . . . and the Town's!

Doctors have been telling us for years that the reduction of certain fatty foods is important for your health. Grease and fats also have an important impact on the "health" of the Town's wastewater collection. When cooking fats are discarded by pouring down the drain, they can quickly form blockages within the Town's sewer system. These blockages result in costly repairs borne by Town residents, and can also result in overflows, environmental damage and serious fines. The Utilities Department of Leonardtown is asking residents not to discard cooking oils, fats, or grease down their drains. We appreciate your cooperation in helping the Town keep costs down and maintain our pipes!

Trash Pickup and Recycling Reminders

Residential trash collections are scheduled every Tuesday and Friday. 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 the night before or by 6:00 a.m. on the day of pick-up. Bagged leaves set out by Town residents will also be picked up on regularly scheduled collection days, but is limited to 5 bags per household, per collection day.

The 2006 **quarterly bulk trash** pickup dates are: Friday, March 3rd, Friday, June 2nd, Friday, Sept. 1st, and Friday, Dec. 1st.

Residential recycling pickups of old newspapers, glass bottles, jars, metal and aluminum cans, and approved plastic bottles are made on Thursdays.

The Waste Management **holiday collections** schedule has changed! Please make a note of service during the weeks in this quarter having a holiday:

May 29 Memorial Day

Trash pick-up: Tuesday & Friday
Recycling pick-up: Thursday

July 4 Independence Day

Trash pick-up: Wednesday & Friday
Recycling pick-up: Thursday

In the event of snow or other hazardous conditions, service will be resumed as soon as the driver can access the streets safely.

For further information on trash service, recycling, or to obtain a recycling container, contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791.



Bernard "Tub" Delahay was sworn into office by Mayor Norris at the Council meeting on December 13, 2005. Tub returns to the Council after a short hiatus, and fills the Council member vacancy left by Walt Gillette.

2005 Tax Returns

Attention Town residents! When completing your Maryland Income Tax return, please remember to check the "Municipality" box and write in "Leonardtown". This does not increase your taxes, but, thanks to you, it does assure that the Town will receive its share of income taxes from the State of Maryland.

Permits Required for Home Repairs

With the upcoming spring and summer seasons, it's customary for residents to remodel and make home improvements. Keep in mind that building permits are required for sheds, decks, swimming pools, construction of piers, room additions and additional living space. Town residents should contact Colleen Bonnel, Town Planner at 301-475-9791 to obtain a building permit before making their new and exciting additions!

The Office of the Leonardtown Commissioners will be closed in observance of the following 2006 Holidays:

January 2	New Year's Day
January 16	Martin Luther King Day
February 20	President's Day
May 29	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 4	Labor Day
November 10	Veteran's Day
November 23	Thanksgiving Day
November 24	Day after Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day



Farewell to Pennie's

(Continued from page 1)

Donna and Jackie thank all those who patronized their business and facilities over the years, and expressed that "Leonardtown will never be the same without Pennie's".



Passing over the keys – Donna, Jackie and Andy turn the keys over to Wayne and Carolyn Davis.

In January of 2006, the Pennie's property was purchased by Wayne Davis, President, W.M. Davis, Inc., who has received concept approval for a mixed-use development on the 6.3 acre site. The project will be named McIntosh Run Center, and is in keeping with the quality projects developed by W.M. Davis in Leonardtown over the last several years. While Pennie's will be long remembered by many as a landmark in Leonardtown, the Town is excited by the new opportunities the McIntosh Run Center will provide.



The McIntosh Run Center has been designed to compliment the small town charm of Leonardtown while providing expanded commercial opportunities to the area. Plans include a 60-room hotel, retail and office space, and a restaurant and bank pad site.

The Town Hall Gets a New Home

For nearly six years, the old post office building on Park Avenue has been home to the Town Hall. In mid-March, the offices of the Commissioners of Leonardtown will be relocating to 41660 Courthouse Drive, and will be housed in the twin building constructed alongside the Loker I building. The receptionist and meeting room will be conveniently located on the first level, and the administrative offices will be located on the third floor. The Town Council and staff invite you to stop by and take a tour of our new home. Office hours will remain Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

VOTE—VOTE—VOTE 2006 Leonardtown Elections Tuesday, May 2, 2006

A Mayor and five-member Town Council govern Leonardtown, each serving a four-year term of office. The 2006 Town Election Day is Tuesday, May 2nd, whereupon three Council seats will be voted on. Polls will be open from 12:00 Noon – 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office.

All elected officials must reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown. Residents interested in filing as a candidate must do so before the deadline date of Monday, April 17, 2006.

To vote in Town elections, voters must reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, be at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the general election, and be a registered St. Mary's County voter. The voter registration deadline for Town residents is Friday, April 14, 2006. If you are not a registered voter and would like to register or update your address, contact the St. Mary's County Board of Elections at 301-475-7844 ext. 1610. Absentee ballots are available from the Town Office. The deadline to submit a completed absentee voter ballot for the Town's 2006 election is Tuesday, April 25, 2006.

Having a Leonardtown mailing address or owning property within the incorporated limits does not qualify you as an actual resident. If you would like to confirm that you actually reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, or have other questions about the Town's elections, please contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791.

Staff Notes

The Town is happy to announce the recent addition of Jeannine Peele, Town Secretary; Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary; and David Caron, Maintenance Technician, to our hard-working group of employees. *Welcome aboard!*



Town staff dressed in red on National Wear Red Day to support the National American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign, helping raise awareness of heart disease as the #1 killer of women. Pictured from left to right are Colleen Bonnel, Linda Shepherd, Laschelle Miller, Barbara Dotson, Teri Dimsey, Jeannine Peele, and Jackie Post.

What Are Our Residents Asking?

What is Happening to Relieve the Traffic Congestion on Route 5?

The Mayor and Town Council are working with the County Commissioners, local State Delegation and the State Highway Administration toward the eventual widening of the Rt. 5 corridor through Leonardtown. This project has moved into the top five priorities for the County with the State Highway Administration. Efforts have been made to assess the additional land needed to accomplish adding a center turn lane and sidewalks along Rt. 5 (Point Lookout Road) between the Rt. 245/5 and Rt. 243/5 intersections. As new projects are planned through this section, developers are being required to design around the requirements for future widening. In addition, as part of its planning efforts, the Mayor and Council have looked at interconnectivity among projects to better serve the residents of the entire Town. Plans for a future traffic signal at the intersection of the Clark's Rest and Tudor Hall projects, with connecting roads from the Leonard's Grant and Singletree developments accessing this signaled intersection, will also help to safely move traffic in this area.

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

Leonardtown Fact - Did You Know?

1858 - Leonardtown was incorporated. This legislation provided that five citizens of Leonardtown were to be elected to serve as Commissioners. At the first annual election held on May 3, 1858, the following persons were elected: J.W.J. Moore, C.I. Durant, H.G.S. Key, Wm. A. Loker, and B. G. Harris. There were 46 voters. (Note: In April 2005, there were 1,059 registered voters in the Town.)

Winter 2005 /
Spring 2006





Town Tidbits

Health Connections Van in Town

Visit the Health Connections Outreach Center Van every second Wednesday of the month in the Town Square, Noon-3:00 p.m., for free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings. Upcoming dates are Mar. 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, and July 12. For more information, call 301-475-6019.

“Fearless Captain: The Adventures of John Smith”

History buffs will want a copy of Aleck Loker’s new book, “Fearless Captain: The Adventures of John Smith”, a biography of the man who held the English settlement together at Jamestown in the face of overwhelming adversity. With the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas coming next year, this book will help put that important milestone into its historical perspective. The book may be obtained from Morgan Reynolds Publishing at www.morganreynolds.com; Amazon.com; or from several local bookstores. Other works by Aleck include “A Matter of Space”, a novel that blends his love of science, engineering, history, and archaeology, and “A Most Convenient Place”, informative and entertaining reading capturing a comprehensive history of Leonardtown between 1650-1950.



Sample savory specialties of many St. Mary’s County and Leonardtown restaurants at this year’s “Taste of St. Mary’s”, Sunday, May 7th from 1 p.m.-6 p.m. on the State House lawn in historic St. Mary’s City. Enjoy 50’s & 60’s melodies by the Fabulous Bel-Airs and the swingin’ sounds of Ken Rothfield.

Admission. Call the St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation at 301-475-6455 for details.

Thanks for a Colorful “Beacon”!

The Town has heard so many wonderful comments from its newsletter recipients that the 2005 Fall/Winter edition of the “Beacon” looked absolutely stunning in full color! We agree, and would like to thank Heritage Printing & Graphics, especially Jerry Bohle and Steve Gass, for providing the “Beacon” in full color without additional cost. Notably, Heritage Printing & Graphics received a 2002 and 2005 Print Quality Award in “Best of Category” for its production of Leonardtown’s “Beacon” newsletter from the Printing & Graphics Association Mid-Atlantic. 2006 awards include an “Award of Excellence” for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium’s “Tobacco Barn” poster, and a “Best of Category” award for SMECO’s “Watts News” employee newsletter.



Leonardtown BEACON

Commissioners of Leonardtown

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North End Gallery Celebrates 20 Years in Leonardtown

September 2006 marks the 20th Anniversary of the North End Gallery in Leonardtown! Throughout the year, the Gallery will feature monthly “themed” shows and receptions where visitors can peruse original and limited edition artworks and mingle with the artists. A special art showing and exhibit to celebrate their 20th Anniversary is planned on the Town Square on Saturday, September 9th. The North End Gallery showroom is located at 41652 Fenwick Street in downtown Leonardtown. For more information and a 2006 event and show schedule, call the Gallery at 301-475-3130, or check their web site at www.northendgallery.org.

Our Town Award

The Commissioners of Leonardtown annually present the “Our Town Award” to a group or individual who has demonstrated service, commitment, leadership, and pride for our Town. The Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home sponsors this award program in Leonardtown.



Joan and Frank Holmes accept the 2005 “Our Town Award” from the Town Council at their regular meeting on February 13, 2006, recognizing their exceptional service to the community of Leonardtown.



Capturing “Seagulls in flight over Breton Bay” during the County’s first snowfall of 2006. This photo was taken from Leonardtown Wharf on February 12th.

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
301-475-9791
Fax: 301-475-5350