

Leonardtown BEACON

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

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Parade
Leonardtown Square

NOVEMBER 14 & 15

Antique Show & Sale
Leonard Hall Recreation Center

NOVEMBER 23-27

LVRs Christmas Festival
Winegardner Showroom

NOVEMBER 27

Christmas on the Square
Leonardtown Square

DECEMBER 12

Santa on the Square
Leonardtown Square

APRIL 18, 2010

Earth Day
Leonardtown Square

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

November 11	Veterans Day
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
November 27	Day after Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 18	Martin Luther King Day
February 15	President's Day

Holiday Trash and Recycling Pick-Ups

Goode Trash Service will collect trash and recyclables as follows during the upcoming holidays:

Week of Thanksgiving:

- Trash will be collected on Tuesday and Friday.
- Recyclables will be collected on Wednesday.

Weeks of Christmas and New Year's:

- Trash will be picked up on Tuesday and Saturday.
- Recyclables will be collected on Wednesday.

Leonardtown's Web Site:

www.leonardtown.somd.com

At Home in Leonardtown featuring . . .

Leonardtown's New "Executive Inn & Suites" Park Avenue Hotel

The Town of Leonardtown has long been known as a charming historic town bordering scenic Breton Bay. Tourists and visitors can sense the Town's history, appreciate the scenic landscape, and enjoy our welcoming community. Yet still, something was missing for those desiring an overnight stay - a first class hotel. That need has now been met with the newly constructed *Executive Inn & Suites* Park Avenue Hotel. Conveniently located within walking distance of the Town Square shops and

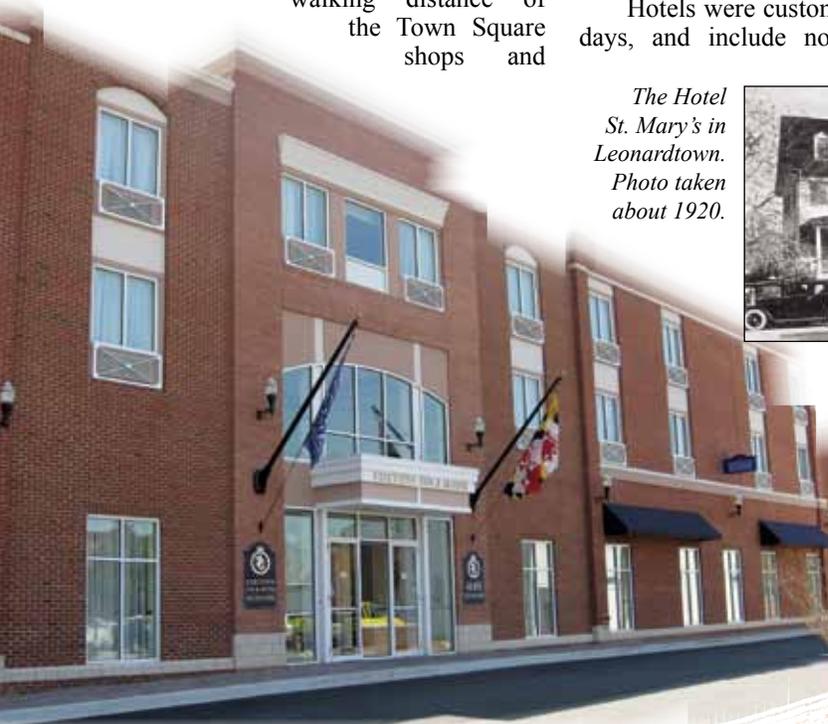
center, continental breakfast, and free wireless and broadband access. All guest rooms include a 32" flat screen plasma TV, HBO, refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, work desk, restrooms with Italian marble and other amenities. Your choice of accommodations include king rooms, double rooms, two queen double suites featuring a whirlpool tub, and an executive suite featuring a mini kitchenette, sitting area, Jacuzzi tub and separate shower.

Hotels were customary of Leonardtown's earlier days, and include notable establishments as the

The Hotel St. Mary's in Leonardtown. Photo taken about 1920.



Moore's Hotel on the southeast side of the Town Square near Park Avenue. Photo taken about 1880.



The new "Executive Inn & Suites" Park Avenue Hotel in historic downtown Leonardtown.

restaurants, the new Leonardtown Wharf Waterfront Park, historic Tudor Hall Mansion, and the Old Jail Museum, this new hotel is sure to complement one's visit to Leonardtown and neighboring attractions.

Constructed in 2008, Leonardtown's new "Executive Inn & Suites" Park Avenue Hotel is nestled in the historic downtown area, just minutes off Point Lookout Road. The three-story hotel offers a spacious lobby, meeting/conference room, fitness center/sauna, gift shop, café, business

Fenwick Hotel, Lawrence Hotel, Moore's Hotel, and the Hotel St. Mary's. According to Mayor Norris, this new hotel is sure to attract tourists into Leonardtown during their stay in St. Mary's County, and is also expected to help energize our local economy and keep our history alive. Recently, over 50 Navy pilots from around the world were exposed to Leonardtown's hospitality when they booked their reservations and held their annual conference at the hotel. Popular events drawing crowds to St. Mary's County for overnight stays



Mayor's Message

The Town Council and I have always worked toward creating a busy, friendly and inviting downtown Leonardtown. This past year has been a particularly challenging economic time, and certainly a disruptive period with so much highway and infrastructure repair and replacement. However there were some significant accomplishments that highlight the efforts of so many people toward our overall goals. Featured in this newsletter is the Executive Inn and Suites Park Avenue Hotel which opened its doors last December. While it has taken a few months to get the word out about this wonderful addition, word is certainly getting out.

Every year, the commanding officers of the world's four major test pilot schools get together along with their civilian deputies to compare curriculum, arrange exchanges, and discuss the challenges of educating experienced pilots to become flight test professionals. The US Navy hosted the 2009 meeting.

The Navy has sponsored the meeting before, but this year the visiting test pilot school personnel from England, France, and the Air Force



were housed in Leonardtown. Rusty Lowry, Technical Director of the US Naval Test Pilot School explained "The addition of the new Executive Inn in Leonardtown, combined with the number of restaurants within walking distance, made it an easy choice to just stay here and avoid bridge traffic and do something a little bit different."

Dining and social events also took place in Leonardtown. The formal conference dinner was hosted by Cafe des Artistes in their private dining salon. An informal barbeque sponsored by the local Navy League was held at the Lowrys' home in Leonardtown and was catered by Kevin's Corner Kafe. "Having social events that our guests could walk to turned out really well," Lowry said.

This may be one event, but to me it exemplifies the future for Leonardtown. These types of visitors bring an economic boost to all of our restaurants and shops, and encourage new ventures. It's also just nice to be able to show off our beautiful little town.

J. Harry Norris
J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor



Leonardtown Beacon

Antique Show & Sale

Leonard Hall Jr. Naval Academy will hold its annual Antique Show & Sale on Saturday, November 14th, 9 AM-5 PM and Sunday, November 15th, 10 AM-4 PM in the Leonard Hall Recreation Center located at 23115 Leonard Hall Drive in Leonardtown. Admission is \$5. For details, visit www.lhjna.org or call LHJNA at 301-475-8029.



Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Ceremony

Salute America's Veterans on Wednesday, November 11th during the annual St. Mary's County Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown! See page 6 for details.

Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary "Christmas Festival"

The Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary (LVRSA) members invite you to their Annual St. Mary's County Christmas Festival held Monday, November 23rd - Friday, November 27th at the Winegardner Motor Company showroom on the Square in Leonardtown. During the week, you can view and bid on items for the silent auction, which will be held on Friday evening. Enjoy an exhibit of photographs provided by Roger Mattingly and a slide show of days past in St. Mary's County. Cards will be provided so that messages can be sent to our service men and women who are hospitalized or serving our Country overseas - a very popular activity last year for both children and adults. Face painting and simple crafts for children will also be part of the celebration. The LVRSA is grateful to Winegardner Motor Co. for their generosity in allowing the use of their showroom during this week-long event.

Each year all of the funds raised by LVRSA are donated to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad to purchase additional equipment, which they use in their tireless service to the community. For those who would like to support this event by entering a tree, wreath or other items for the silent auction or to become a sponsor of this event, contact Johnny Coombs at 64galaxie@olg.com or 301-475-2209, or Dudley Lindsley at dlindsley@verizon.net or 301-373-2551.

Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square

Kids of all ages! Bring your Christmas wish list and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on the Town Square on Saturday, December 12th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Remember to bring your camera! (*In the event of inclement weather, you can find Santa & Mrs. Claus in the Winegardner Motor Company showroom.*)



Leonardtown Art Galleries Celebrate the Holiday Season

The North End Gallery will be celebrating their all-members "23rd Annual Holiday Show" November 24th through January 3rd. You can meet the artists at the Gallery's Gala Holiday Reception on Friday, December 4th between 5 PM - 8 PM. The North End Gallery is located in historic downtown Leonardtown at 41652 Fenwick Street. For more information and special holiday hours, call 301-475-3130, or visit www.northendgallery.org.

The MD Antiques Center will hold a "Holiday Open House" on Saturday, December 5th, with Santa, refreshments and seasonal music by David Norris. Additionally, the Leonardtown Galleria and Creek Side Gallery will present a Historic Southern Maryland Art Show, and the Vineyard Cafe and Tea Room will be open for lunch. Holiday open house festivities will also be offered by the neighboring Southern Maryland Artisans Center and Shelby's Custom Framing & Art. The MD Antiques Center complex is located at 26005 Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown. For details visit <http://marylandantiquescenter.com/> or call 301-475-1960.



Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting

It's that time of year when Leonardtown rings in the holiday season and everyone looks forward to Santa's arrival and the Town's traditional Christmas tree lighting! Come to the Town Square on Friday, November 27th between 5 PM-9 PM to enjoy holiday entertainment, seasonal music, horse and carriage rides, sleigh rides, train rides, hayrides, live nativity, petting zoo, face painting, children's crafts, food, hot drinks, fresh kettle corn, and other activities! Many of the downtown restaurants and specialty shops will be open during this event for holiday shopping and special entertainment.

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Leonardtown Business Association, and the Commissioners of Leonardtown sponsor this popular holiday event. (*Rain date - Saturday, November 28th*)

Leonardtown Library Offers Holiday Program and Online Homework Help

Children of all ages will delight in the Leonardtown Library's Holiday Surprise program on December 16th at 6:00 p.m. Teens can celebrate the release of the "New Moon" movie on November 19th at 5:30 p.m. These events are free, but registration is required. To register or request more information, visit the Library online at www.stmalib.org or call 301-475-2846 and press 2.

St. Mary's County Library now offers free online homework help for grades 3 and higher. HelpNow! provides expert tutors (English and Spanish) in all core subjects, with foreign language and writing skills. The service can be accessed from 2:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. daily by going to www.stmalib.org and clicking on the HelpNow! icon.

Community Christmas Dinner

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church is sponsoring its 6th Community Christmas dinner on Friday, December 25th from 2 AM - 6 PM at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown. The dinner is free and for anyone desiring a good meal and/or wanting to share the spirit of Christmas with others. All are invited to attend. Requests for transportation to and from dinner must be made before Friday, December 11th. Contact the Society at 301-481-2942 for more information or to volunteer for this event.

A Special December "First Friday" Celebration in Leonardtown



You won't want to miss the fun in Town on December 4th! This "First Friday" will feature giveaways from Leonardtown businesses that include gift certificates and a bicycle valued at \$250. Santa will even make an appearance to draw the winners' names!

Many Leonardtown shops, art galleries, and restaurants celebrate "First Fridays", staying open later and offering customer discounts, music, and other events, such as gallery receptions and wine-tastings. "First Friday" participants can be found in the downtown Square, uptown at several businesses housed in the Breton Market Place, and the MD Antiques Center complex located at 26005 Point Lookout Road.

Make plans now to rediscover the many treasures of old/new Leonardtown. Check www.leonardtownfirstfridays.com for a list of "First Friday" businesses and monthly specials.



Kevin's Corner Kafe Sponsoring Food and Toy Drive

Kevin's Corner Kafe is sponsoring a food and toy drive to benefit needy families in St. Mary's County. Beginning November 1st through Christmas Eve, canned food items, grocery store gift cards, and new unwrapped toys can be dropped off inside the restaurant. You can also bring your donation to Kevin's during Leonardtown's "Christmas on the Square" event on Friday, November 27th, when the restaurant will be decorated as a gingerbread house, carols will be sung by the Leonardtown High School chorus, and kids will have fun decorating gingerbread cookies at no charge.

For details, stop by "Kevin's Corner Kafe", a Leonardtown First Friday participant, located just off the Town Square at 41565 Park Avenue, or call 301-997-1260.

Family Skate Night at Leonard Hall

All are welcome every Saturday evening, year round from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Leonard Hall Recreation Center for Family Skate Night. The cost is \$3 per person. Rental skates are available for \$2.50 or you may bring your own roller skates. Call Recreation and Parks at 301-475-4200 ext. 1800 for more information.



Congratulations to Pat Mudd, winner of the August 6th "First Friday" Kayak Giveaway! Celebrating with Pat is Dan Norris, LBA President, Dan Sweeney of BluHaven Piers, J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor of Leonardtown, and Carolyn Laray, St. Mary's County Tourism Manager.

Mayor

J. Harry Norris, III

Town Council

Walter Wise, *Vice-President*
Daniel W. Burris
Thomas R. Collier
Robert C. Combs
Leslie E. Roberts

Town Office Staff

Laschelle McKay, *Town Administrator*
Rebecca Sothoron, *Treasurer*
Jackie Post, *Fiscal Clerk*
Teri Dimsey, *Executive Secretary*
Jeannine Peele, *Town Secretary*
DeAnn Adler, *Plans Reviewer*
Julie Lemmon, *Events Coordinator*
Linda Shepherd, *Public Relations*
Barbara Dotson, *Grants Writer*
Tony Wheatley, *Capital Project Coordinator*
Cpl. Peggy Smolarsky *Town Deputy*

Utilities Staff

John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*
Timmy Lacey, *Asst. Superintendent*
Joe Bucior, *Operator*
Greg Owen, *Operator*

Planning & Zoning Board Members

Jean Moulds, *Chair*
Frank Fearn, *Vice-Chair*
John "Jack" Candela
Heather Earhart
Glen Mattingly

Board of Appeals

Dr. Herbert Winnik, *Chair*
Jerome DuVal
Dr. William Icenhower
Darren Meyer
Joan Ritchie

Meetings

Town Council - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12

Planning Commission - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 19*, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 19 (*Tuesday in lieu of Monday holiday)

Contact the Town:

Commissioners of Leonardtown

Proffitt Building
41660 Courthouse Drive
P.O. Box 1
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Phone: 301-475-9791

Fax: 301-475-5350

E-Mail: Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net

Website: Leonardtown.somd.com

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

Leonardtown's Web Site:

www.leonardtown.somd.com

Fall/Winter 2009



The "Geezers" Band playing rock and roll favorites in the Town Square.

Summer Concerts on the Square

Outdoor concerts in the Town Square drew steady crowds to enjoy music and the good ole' summertime! Every fourth Saturday from May to August, an audience gathered for "Downtown Tunes" to hear Rock, Jazz,

Country, and Blues. The St. Mary's College "River Concert Series on Location" visited Leonardtown on two consecutive Saturdays in July. Thanks to all the participating bands for sharing their musical talents!

Farmers Market Welcomed in the Town Square

Leonardtown's "Farmers Market" staged a weekly attraction to many residents and tourists this summer and early fall. Each Friday, Ben Yoder and Marvin Steiner hauled delicious home baked goods, juicy fruits, garden-fresh vegetables, and beautiful flowers into the downtown. This was a special treat to many, and the Town appreciates these families for their faithfulness in providing this quality market.



Leonardtown Winery Project

Local grape growers were able to utilize the new Port of Leonardtown Winery to process their grape harvest this fall. This exciting project was a true partnership between the Town of Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, and the Southern Maryland Winegrowers Cooperative. The finishing touches are being made on this incredible facility and expectations are to open the tasting room in late spring.



Steel fermenting tanks for processing wine.

County and Town officials tour the Port of Leonardtown Winery on September 29, 2009.



Leonardtown Beacon



Beach Party on the Square

Saturday, August 8th marked Leonardtown's 8th Annual "Beach Party on the Square", and what a day it was!

A wealth of folks came out to enjoy music by the "Sons of Pirates" and have fun participating in the jump rope, hula-hoop and limbo contests, a rock-climbing wall, and being sprayed by the LVFD fire truck hose down! Laughter and fun echoed as kids enjoyed the water slide, magic acts by Reggie Rice-Super Magic Man, hula dancers, a skills demo by the College of Southern Maryland Women's Volleyball



Team and other performers. A special fireworks display in celebration of Maryland's 375th Birthday concluded this year's event. Thanks to all Beach Party participants and the many vendors, volunteers and sponsors for their support!



"Fall Follies"



Shoppers enjoyed a variety of quality handcrafted articles by local artisans and vendors at this year's annual "Fall Follies" on September 12th. The St. Mary's Crafts Guild sponsors this annual craft fair. For more specialty and handcrafted items, visit the Southern Maryland Artisans Center located at 26005 Point Lookout Road, in the MD Antiques Center complex in Leonardtown. For more information call 301-997-1644.



Photo courtesy Janice Pruett

National Assisted Living Week Celebrated at Cedar Lanes Apartments

On Tuesday, September 15, 2009, Mayor J. Harry Norris, III presented a proclamation in honor of National Assisted Living Week to Beverly Stickles, President of Cedar Lane Apartments. Attendees and residents also enjoyed musical numbers by The Vibes, a group comprised of local area senior musicians and singers. Cedar Lane Apartments is a senior living community that offers senior living with or without supportive services and assisted living. Additional information on the 208-unit apartment complex, located at 22680 Cedar Lane Court in Leonardtown, can be found by visiting www.cedarlaneapts.com or calling Cedar Lane Apartments at 301-475-8966.

Highlights



"Leonardtwn Wharf Waterfront Celebration"

It was a day of fun and discovery for all at the *Leonardtwn Wharf Waterfront Celebration* on Saturday, September 12th.

Spectators enjoyed scenic boat tours to St. Clement's Island aboard the Historic Oyster Bay Boat "Samuel M. Bailey", a sailing regatta between St. Mary's-Ryken and Leonardtown High School students, kayaking and canoeing in Breton Bay, maritime exhibits and learning about local waterways, kids' activities, sand box play, arts and crafts, musical performances



by David Norris and local school chorus groups, story time by the Leonardtown Library, and USCG demonstrations and simulated water rescue in Breton Bay by the 7th District, Leonardtown, and Ridge Fire Departments. Attractions at

Historic Tudor Hall included an artists' gathering, a performance by the Newtowne Players, and a Key Family Exhibition. Thanks to Helen Dorsey and the many volunteers who worked so hard on this event!



Church Youth Share an Evening Kayaking on McIntosh Run

Members of the St. Aloysius Church Jr. Youth Group enjoyed kayaking on McIntosh Run on September 18th. This was the group's first social activity of the year. Parish members, family and friends donated kayaks and life vests. St. Aloysius Church also has a Sr. Youth Group. Youth in the community are welcome to join the groups for any future social and service activities, and may contact St. Aloysius Church at 301-475-8064 for further information.

Photo courtesy Paula Wood

Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Over 200 walkers participated in the second annual *Walk for the Poor* held in Leonardtown on Saturday, September 26th, raising more than \$15,000 to support the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Visit www.walkforthe poor.com for details.



Update on Leonardtown Streetscape Safety Enhancement Project

Corinthian Contractors, together with the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Town of Leonardtown thank Town residents and all citizens for their patience and understanding during the construction phase of this project. When complete, this project will include a shared use path, brick accented sidewalks, enhanced lighting, landscaping, and bike access. If you have any questions, please contact the SHA Project Engineer, Greta Hartman, at 301-997-1314.



Taste of St. Mary's

Sunny skies, wonderful weather, and delectable dishes brought an estimated 2,000 people to downtown Leonardtown on Sunday, September 20th for a *Taste of St. Mary's*. This event is sponsored annually

by the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce and offers St. Mary's County restaurants and food vendors an opportunity to showcase their specialty dishes in sample sized portions. Director of the Chamber and event organizer, Bill Scarafia, notes "there were 16 vendors this year, and each one had long lines all day long. In fact, several of the vendors had to make runs back to their businesses to replenish their rapidly depleting food supplies." While the tasty samples were served up, live entertainment by Music Temple, Geezers, and Bozo Diablo kept spectators dancing and singing in the Square. It was truly a festival type atmosphere. Kelly Rossi, one of the many people having a "taste of St. Mary's" offered, "what a great event! There are even bounce houses and face-painting for the kids. I can't get my daughter, Glynnis, to leave!" Mr. Scarafia added,



"The Chamber is pleased that we are able to promote the hospitality industry and bring the community together in a family friendly event." Mark your calendars for a *Taste of St. Mary's* 2010 which will take place on Sunday, September 19th, in the Leonardtown Square.



Leonardtwn Wharf Park Attracting Recreators and Events

Open to the public in May 2008, the Leonardtown Wharf Public Park has become a premier attraction. A number of wedding ceremonies and small gatherings have been hosted at this lovely site. More and more boaters and kayakers are enjoying the facilities as well. Fall is a perfect time to take a sunset stroll, pack a picnic lunch, watch the ripples in beautiful Breton Bay, or capture a magnificent sunset. Just follow Washington Street down the hill to Breton Bay and take advantage of this wonderful park right here in Leonardtown!



Join the Leonardtown Business Association

The Leonardtown Business Association welcomes Cedar Cove Marina and Personal Touch Vacations!

LBA members enjoy showcasing their business and connecting with other businessmen and women, as well as participating in discounted advertising opportunities and *First Friday* events. Other informational tools include updates on Leonardtown projects, Town Council news and Town Planning and Zoning issues, reports from County representatives and businesses, and featured meeting guests and speakers. Remember to renew your LBA membership for 2010, which is due on January 1st. Contact Dan Norris, LBA President, at dnorris@drnenvironmental solutions.com if you are interested in joining the LBA.

Fall/Winter 2009



Town Streets that Honor Leonardtown Veterans

Through the years, four streets in Leonardtown were named to honor four native Leonardtown servicemen. These young men lost their lives while serving our country during war times.



Barthelme Street

Named in honor of Albert L. Barthelme, Jr. C.W.O. Barthelme served in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War. On April 15, 1970, while approaching a landing zone in the area of Dak Seang, his helicopter and crew came under intense enemy ground fire. Although wounded,

the crew survived the crash and ran to cover, whereupon they were again hit with heavy sniper fire. It was during this attack that Barthelme was mortally wounded while saving the life of his crew chief. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic action. Albert loved Leonardtown and St. Mary's County, and was known in his unit for proudly sporting his green St. Mary's County tee shirt. On that fateful day, Albert was wearing the green tee shirt that provided his identification.



Downs Circle

Named in honor of Francis L. "Winkie" Downs. PFC. Downs served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II. While on a combat mission in the South Pacific, his paratrooper unit was wiped out at Anzio.



Duke Street - Named in honor of Walter Francis Duke. Captain Duke joined the Royal Canadian Air Corps and then transferred to the U.S. Army Air Corps when the United States entered World War II. On June 6, 1944, Captain Duke was returning to base from a mission at the western edge of Burma Valley, when he circled back to the combat area to perform a search for his wingman



when he was jumped by a flight of Japanese Zeros. It was later reported that Duke shot down three of the Zeros before his fate. The Purple Heart was bestowed on Duke for his extraordinary sacrifice. This was to have been Walter's last mission, and a welcome home celebration was being planned when family and friends received word. A tribute to Duke can be found at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport, which was renamed the Captain Walter Francis Duke Regional Airport in 1996 in his honor.



Shadrick Street - Named in honor of Thomas H. Shadrick. Serving with the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II, Sgt. Shadrick was killed in combat while on a mission in the South Pacific.

Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Ceremony

Salute America's Veterans on Wednesday, November 11th during the annual

St. Mary's County Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown! The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. on Washington Street, and will proceed through the Town Square to the Courthouse. Hand-held American flags will be available for spectators. We encourage all to proudly wave the flags as the many Veterans, bands, bagpipers, youth organizations, cheerleaders, motorcycles, antique cars, horses, floats and others pass by!



Following the parade, spectators are welcome to remain in the Town Square for a moving ceremony in honor of our Veterans, which will include a silent drill team, patriotic music, guest speakers, and laying of wreaths on the war monuments.

The annual Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Ceremony in Leonardtown is sponsored by the St. Mary's County Commissioners, the Commissioners of Leonardtown, and VFW Post 2632. Call 301-475-9791 for more information.

Many thanks to the contributors for this article: Bryan Barthelme, Al Gough - *The Chronicles of St. Mary's*, and Aleck Loker - *A Most Convenient Place*. Thanks also to the St. Mary's County Memorials Association for undertaking and maintaining the Deceased Veterans Memorial Project in the Leonardtown Square.

Leonardtown and St. Mary's County believes it is important to honor our Veterans. Please join us for the annual Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony each year on November 11th in the Leonardtown Square. You are also invited to visit the Deceased Veterans Memorials bearing names of St. Mary's County Veterans who gave their lives in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the current Global War on Terrorism, so that we might live in freedom. If you would like to place a wreath at any of the monuments this Veterans Day, please contact the Town Office.

Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy Celebrates 100 Years

Leonard Hall opened its doors on September 19, 1909. On September 19, 2009, Leonard Hall celebrated a Centennial Gala with 140 families at the J.T. Daugherty Center.

Since 1909, Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy has provided Southern Maryland with graduates who have become leaders in the military, business, and the community. The school was established on the Loker Estate that had been purchased by the Jesuit Fathers. Leonard Hall, named in honor of Leonard Calvert, became the first Catholic school for boys in the original Calvert proprietary.

The main focus in the early years was agriculture and in 1941 the school adopted a military program. It is currently the only military academy in the state of Maryland. Today the school is flourishing with a non-denominational Christian, co-educational, military, college-preparatory program. The school proudly maintains high academic standards and instills the discipline, respect for authority, self-confidence, and leadership, which the Xavarian Brothers initiated over 100 years ago.

6

Leonardtown Beacon

Visit www.lhjna.org for more information on Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy.



Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy 100th Anniversary Alumni attending the Board of County Commissioners' Proclamation on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 left to right: Bob Schaller, Jeff Errington, Al Guy, Ben Pecson, Jamie Boyd, Bill Guy, Eddie Bailey, Phil Dorsey, Gary Simpson, Paul Colonna, Dan Norris, Lanny Lancaster, John K. Parlett, Jr.

“Executive Inn & Suites”

Continued from page 1

include events such as the annual Blessing of the Fleet, St. Mary’s County Crab Festival, St. Mary’s County Oyster Festival, Li’l Margaret’s Bluegrass & Old Time Country Music Festival, and various special events and attractions held throughout the county. To help plan your visit to St. Mary’s County, please contact the St. Mary’s County Division of Tourism at 1-800-327-9023 or www.stmarysmd.com/tourism to request an annual St. Mary’s County Calendar of Events. You are also welcome to contact the office of the Commissioners of Leonardtown at 301-475-9791 or go to www.Leonardtown.somd.com for more about events and happenings in the Town of Leonardtown.



The lobby of the new “Executive Inn & Suites” Park Avenue Hotel.

The excited owners of Leonardtown’s new hotel are Nick & Cindy Patel, while the hotel’s management is under the direction of their son Neal. The Patels and staff invite you to experience a comfortable and pleasant stay in Leonardtown. Whether you need accommodations for a conference, wedding, family reunion, or other special event, the new Leonardtown “Executive Inn & Suites” Park Avenue Hotel is ready to provide their services. Visit the hotel on the web at www.execinnparkave.com or call 301-475-3000 for more information and to make your reservation.



The St. Mary’s County Division of Tourism, in conjunction with the Town of Leonardtown and Maryland Life Magazine, recently hosted a launch meeting to coordinate the 2010 Destination and Relocation Guide in the “Executive Inn & Suites” conference room. The Town Council and staff are excited that this year’s publication will feature the Town of Leonardtown.

Enjoy your visit in historic Leonardtown!

GOING GREEN IN LEONARDTOWN! Preventing Pollutants from Flowing into Our Bay

Keeping our waters clean and pure is a huge part of conservation and “green” activities, and storm water drains are no exception. Unlike the water that goes down your drain to the sewer, water that flows into storm drains is not treated and filtered for pollutants. This contaminated water flows into canals, into streams and lakes, and then ends up in our bays and oceans. Everything other than pure rainwater is a potential contaminant that degrades water quality.

It’s very important that you help prevent contaminants from flowing into storm drains and never pour anything into them. Intentionally pouring water and pollutants into street gutters and storm drains is dangerous to the environment and is also illegal. This includes trash, grass clippings, leaves and other lawn debris. Household products washed or dumped into storm drains can flow directly into local creek and streams and threaten our clean water resources. Many of these products can be toxic to humans, fish and other marine life. Please do your part to keep our waterways clean!

Water Meter Installation Update

By now, many residents have seen the Town’s Capital Project Coordinator, Tony Wheatley, working with Delahay Construction to install water meter vaults at all single family residences in Town. This first phase of the project is approximately two-thirds complete and progressing ahead of schedule. We anticipate that all meter vaults will be installed by December 31, 2009. The next phase of the project is actually installing the water meters. This process will begin in November and proceed systematically until all meters are installed by the spring of 2010. The meters selected for installation will allow Town staff to capture readings with a remote receiver installed in a Town vehicle. A simple drive by of each location is all that is needed to read the water meter. We anticipate taking residential readings for two quarters and communicating that information to customers on their regular water bill. This information will also be used to develop a revised rate structure. We anticipate a new rate structure will be effective in 2011. Until then, water and sewer use will continue to be billed at flat rates. Future updates, including the revised rate structure, will be published in the Beacon and on the Town website. Please call the Town office if you have any questions.

Trash and Recycling Reminders

Residential trash is collected every Tuesday and Friday. Trash is accepted in 30-gallon cans with lids, cans on wheels, or totes issued by Goode Trash Removal. To guarantee collection, trash should be set out the night before or by 6:00 a.m. on the day of pick-up.

The next quarterly **bulk trash** pickup date will be Friday, December 4th. Bulk trash will be collected at the same time as your regular trash, so please ensure all your items are placed at the curb together.

Residential recycling collection is made on Wednesdays. To guarantee collection, your recycling tote should be set out the night before or by 6:00 a.m. the day of pick-up. With streamlined recycling, it’s easier than ever to recycle newspapers, paper, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles, jars, metal and aluminum cans, and other approved items.

Look for the Recycling Emblem on all your disposables.

Space-saving tip: Remember to break down cardboard boxes and other items before placing in your recycling tote.



Town residents wishing to receive additional information on Leonardtown trash service, or to request a trash or recycling tote, should contact the Town Office.

Fall Leaf Pick-Up

As part of its trash collection service, Goode Trash Service will pick up bagged leaves set out by Town residents on regularly scheduled trash collection days. This service is limited to 5 bags of leaves per household per collection day. Any remaining bags may be set out for pickup on the next trash collection day, but still observing the 5-bag limit. Please do not place piles of loose leaves in the street, as this is not part of the trash disposal service.

Snow Removal Changes

The State’s budget crisis has impacts on local municipalities as well. This year’s funding of Highway User Revenue, which local governments utilize for road maintenance and snow removal, was cut by 90% in recent weeks. While citizen safety is still the utmost concern, efforts to cut snow removal costs will be put into place. Snow accumulation less than two inches (2”) will not be plowed and only main routes will be kept plowed through the nighttime hours. We will continue to make every effort to ensure the quality service that Leonardtown residents are accustomed to.





Town Tidbits

Volunteers Needed at Tudor Hall and the Old Jail Museum & Visitor Information Center



The rewards of volunteering with the St. Mary's County Historical Society can embrace learning new skills, forming new friendships, and showing pride of our past. Volunteers can serve as docents in the Old Jail Museum, help to identify books and file in the Research Center and Library, explore Genealogical Research, archive and prepare materials for storage, documentation and processing, prepare exhibits and storyboards portraying county history, assist with maintenance projects, and assist administrative staff with mailings. Authors and Historians are also needed to share research and stories about the county and its rich history, as well as photographers who can regularly take pictures of Tudor Hall and the Old Jail. There's even a position for IT specialists to develop the web site and digitize archives.

Visit www.stmaryshistory.org/ to browse the St. Mary's County Historical Society on line. If you love history and wish to volunteer, contact Susan Wolfe at smchsdirector@md.metrocast.net or 301-475-2467.



U. S. Flag Donated to the Town



One day while sitting on a park bench in the Leonardtown Square, Ms. Sally Lake was observing the flags flying high. Her thoughts centered on her foster father, Clayton W. McWhirter, who served in the U. S. Army during WWII. This prompted Sally to donate the U. S. flag given to her by the Army upon his passing to the Town of Leonardtown. In appreciation of Sally's generous and honorable gesture, the Town is currently flying this flag in the Town Square.

Staff Notes



The Town is pleased to announce the assignment of Cpl. Peggy Smolarsky as Leonardtown's police officer. Business owners and residents can expect to see Cpl. Smolarsky on the Leonardtown beat over the next few months. Be sure to give her a hearty Leonardtown welcome!

Keeping In Touch With Leonardtown

For current news, happenings and special events in and around Town, be sure to check the official Leonardtown web site at Leonardtown.somd.com on a regular basis.

Looking for a history keepsake for your collection or a gift? May we suggest a copy of Leonardtown's 300th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook, the book "A Most Convenient Place", or a print of the Leonardtown Mural. For details and availability, contact the Town Office.

What Our Residents Are Asking

What is the Significance of the Compass Rose featured at the Leonardtown Wharf?

The compass rose has appeared on charts and maps since the 1300's. The term "rose" comes from the figure's compass points resembling the petals of the well-known flower to indicate the directions of the winds (known as the wind rose).



Designers chose the Compass Rose as a tribute to Leonardtown Wharf's historical importance in the progression of Leonardtown's development.

In the Middle Ages, the names of the winds were commonly known throughout the Mediterranean countries as *tramontana* (N), *greco* (NE), *levante* (E), *siroco* (SE), *ostro* (S), *libeccio* (SW), *ponente* (W) and *maestro* (NW) using names from Greek, Latin, and finally the eight so-called rhumbs (Spanish or Portuguese rumbo, course, direction, ultimately from Latin rhombus) known to Mediterranean sailors in modern Italian.

In the earliest charts, north is indicated by a spearhead above the letter T (for *tramontana*). This symbol evolved into a fleur-de-lys around the time of Columbus, and was first seen on Portuguese maps. Also in the 14th century, the L (for *levante*) on the east side of the rose was replaced with a cross, indicating the direction to Paradise (long thought to be in the east), or at least to where Christ was born (in the Levant). The East point of the compass was often marked with a + or cross as it pointed to Jerusalem (from the point of view of Western Europe.)

The colors on the figure are supposedly the result of the need for graphic clarity rather than a mere cartographical whim. On a rolling ship at night by the light of a flickering oil lamp, these figures had to be clearly visible. Therefore the eight principle points of the compass are usually shown on the compass rose in black which stands out easily. Against this background, the points representing the half-winds are typically colored in blue or green and since the quarter-wind points are the smallest, they are usually colored red. The 32 points of the compass rose come from the directions of the eight major winds, the eight half-winds and the sixteen quarter-winds. Naming them all off perfectly was known as "boxing the compass".

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