

# Leonardtowntown BEACON

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



## Calendar of Events

**FIRST FRIDAY, EVERY MONTH**  
Celebration of "First Fridays"  
Historic downtown and uptown  
Leonardtowntown

**SECOND SUNDAY, MAY-SEPT.**  
"Second Sundays" Celebrate the Arts  
Historic downtown and uptown  
Leonardtowntown

**4th SATURDAY, MAY-AUGUST**  
Downtown Tunes  
Leonardtowntown Square

**APRIL 22**  
Earth Day Celebration  
Leonardtowntown Square and  
Leonardtowntown Wharf Park

**APRIL 29**  
Spring Fling Classic Car Show  
Leonardtowntown Square

**MAY 5**  
March of Dimes 5K Walk  
Leonardtowntown Wharf Park

**MAY 19**  
Cystic Fibrosis 5K Walk  
Leonardtowntown Wharf Park

**JUNE 3**  
Leonardtowntown Bicycle Criterium  
Leonardtowntown Square

**JUNE 9**  
SMC Crab Festival  
SMC Fairgrounds

**JUNE 14**  
Flag Day Celebration  
Governmental Center

**JULY 7**  
River Concert on the Square  
Leonardtowntown Square

**AUGUST 4**  
Beach Party on the Square  
Leonardtowntown Square

At Home in Leonardtown featuring . . .

## Matters of a Mayor



Chip and his wife Jan are passionate supporters of Leonardtown and delight in regular visits to the Town Square for shopping, dining, events, and enjoying the company of friends and family.

in Leonardtown spans 25 years - 4 years as a Town Council member, and 21 years as Mayor. Chip has had the pleasure of serving alongside many outstanding council members, but especially recalls the impact of the late Ray Hall, "Tub" Delahay, and his mother-in-law Becky Proffitt.

Accomplishments under Chip's leadership include securing government anchors in the downtown (such as the Courthouse, Post Office and Town Hall), Town Square enhancements, decorative street lamps, landscaping and streetscape improvements, and public parking lot acquisitions and improvements.

Cleanup and beautification of Leonardtown Wharf has given way to today's Leonardtown Wharf Waterfront Park, with its striking compass rose promenade and access to scenic Breton Bay. The Leonardtown Wharf Park was honored as a recipient of the State of Maryland's first "Priority Places" designation in 2004. This designation recognized the Leonardtown Wharf Park project as an initiative in the State's Smart Growth Cabinet to coordinate funding and design development.



Chip and former Town Council member Tub Delahay, a long time supporter of the Southern Maryland Soap Box Derby, on the lawns of Tudor Hall with Leonardtown's derby racer.

In the spring of 1973, J. Harry Norris III (fondly known as "Chip") experienced his first term of leadership in Leonardtown. He was elected and served on the Town Council from 1973-1977, and then as president from 1978-1981. (Later, the office of President was changed to Mayor.)

In 1995, Chip once again answered the call and was elected to public service, this time as Mayor. He has now served as Leonardtown's Mayor for 17 consecutive years.

In January 2012, Chip announced that he wishes to spend more time with his family and will not seek re-election for office when his term is completed in May 2012.



Chip is always proud of Leonardtown, but especially so when the Town was honored as one of Maryland's first "Priority Places" designations in 2004.



Chip, with County Commissioner Frances Eagan, and Town Council members Becky Proffitt and Walter Wise during the 2000 groundbreaking ceremony for the renovation of the St. Mary's County Courthouse.

The once abandoned State Highway Garage was deeded to the Town by the State. This building has been refurbished and now houses the Port of Leonardtown Winery. This property also offers a passive public park and water access via McIntosh Run.

Residential growth has been well planned with the expansion of Singletree subdivision, the development of Academy Hills, and the addition of Leonard's Grant. Likewise, Clark's Rest is on target to break ground this spring. While the Tudor Hall project may be stalled, the State granted 250 acres to the Town

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## Mayor's Message

I was elected Mayor of Leonardtown in 1995; my primary goals were to showcase the historic beauty of the downtown square area and rebuild a strong downtown commercial district, re-open waterfront access for all citizens, and control residential growth. I believe that I have been consistent in following these goals for the last seventeen years. Having a plan is crucial to smart growth, but following it can be a different thing entirely. It requires a strong (sometimes stubborn) conviction, but also a willingness to alter them as times or opportunities change.

The key to success of any plan is to have great support: from the boards and committees, from the business community, and from the town staff. I have been fortunate to have Leonardtown people on different boards who love the town, and were willing to give up their time to maintain the quality of life here. The business community (especially with the advent and growth of the Leonardtown Business Association) has been, and always will be, the core of our town's success. In addition, I have had an excellent staff who have always been hard working, and dedicated to me and the town citizens. Rebecca Sothoron, Laschelle McKay and Linda Shepherd have all been working for the town for over twelve years, and I want to thank them for their advice and loyalty.

My family and I love Leonardtown, and my tenure as mayor has been an enjoyable experience for us. Jan and I will continue to be involved in order to make our town the wonderful place it is to live and raise our children (Kelly, Kristin and Jay), and now our grandchildren (Will, Logan and Olivia). Thank you all so much for your trust and support over the years.



Will Loveless and Logan Caton stroll around town during a Leonardtown Earth Day Celebration with Pop Pop.

  
J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor  
*Leonardtown Beacon*



## Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate Earth Day in the Town Square on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30 PM-4:30 PM. A variety of environmental organizations will be on hand to provide information on energy and water conservation, recycling tips and going green ideas to help protect our land and waters. You will also find animal welfare rescue groups, a honeybee collection, organics, herbs, plants, and more! Entertainment includes live music, a puppet show, dance performances, Thai Chi demonstrations, reflexology, face painting, children's nature crafts and more. Free kayak and canoe rides, entertainment and yoga demonstrations (bring your mat) will also be offered at Leonardtown Wharf Park on beautiful Breton Bay. Sponsored by the Leonardtown Business Association. 301-475-9791



## Spring Fling XXVII Classic Car Show

Check out over 200 classic and antique cars and trucks on display around the Leonardtown Square on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM-4 PM. Music, crafts, kid's tractor pull, games, prizes and trophies. Sponsored by the St. Mary's Rod and Classic Car Club to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's. Contact Bill Higgs at 301-994-9666 or go online to [stmarysrodandclassic.com](http://stmarysrodandclassic.com) for details and registration. (Rain date: Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>)

## March of Dimes "March for Babies" Walk

"March for Babies" on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> on the streets of historic downtown Leonardtown. The 5K walk begins at Leonardtown Wharf Park at 9 AM. Fun, food and entertainment. Register online at [marchforbabies.org](http://marchforbabies.org) or on walk day beginning at 7:30 AM. For more information contact Jennifer Abell at 571-257-2310.



greatstrides



TAKING STEPS TO CURE CYSTIC FIBROSIS

## Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis

Take "Great Strides" to help find a cure for cystic fibrosis on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Leonardtown Wharf Park. This 5K walk event around downtown Leonardtown begins at 10 AM. Invite your friends and family to come along for the exercise, music and camaraderie. Visit [cff.org/Chapters/metrodc](http://cff.org/Chapters/metrodc) for details and online registration, or register on walk day beginning at 8:30 AM. 301-994-2118.

## Leonardtown Criterium Bicycle Races

Join the excitement as MABRA/USA professional cyclists from all over the Mid-Atlantic region race through the streets of Leonardtown during the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Leonardtown Criterium on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 AM-5 PM. Spectators are welcome to come out and watch the thrilling series of men's and women's races throughout the day at sustained speeds approaching 30 miles per hour. Kids will enjoy participating in noon-day kids races for prizes – be sure bring your own bike or trike and helmet. Check [paxvelo.com](http://paxvelo.com) or call 240-925-4806 for details.



## Annual SMC Crab Festival

With a new day and extended hours, the 27<sup>th</sup> annual St. Mary's County Crab Festival is sure to be the best ever! The festival will be held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM-9 PM at the SMC Fairgrounds. In addition to an assortment of tasty crab, seafood and non-seafood dishes, you will find a variety of entertainment, live music, dance performances, classic cars and activities for kids, as well as handmade items and one-of-a-kind gifts by local crafters! Admission is \$5 per person over 12 years of age. (Cost of food is separate from admission.) The Leonardtown Lions Club sponsors this popular event, and gratefully welcomes volunteers. Check [stmaryscrabfestival.com](http://stmaryscrabfestival.com) for additional information.



## Please Join Us!

### Mayor Chip Norris

Mayor 1995 to 2012

Town Council 1971 to 1981

Join us as we celebrate his seventeen plus years of service encouraging and overseeing the revitalization of the Town of Leonardtown and recognize his dedication to the Town, residents and community.

## Open House

Friday, April 27, 2012  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Executive Inn and Suites at Park Avenue

# On Out!

## Flag Day Celebration

Celebrate our Nation's flag on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> on the Governmental Center lawn in Leonardtown. Patriotic festivities begin at 6 PM and include a celebration ceremony at 7 PM with music, a parade, the Pause for the Pledge and raising of the American flag. Free handheld American Flags are available for all! For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 1340.

## River Concert Series on Location in Leonardtown Square

Listen to the sounds of the St. Mary's College Brass Ensemble in the Leonardtown Square on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. This concert is held on location in Leonardtown as an extension of the St. Mary's College River Concert Series. The concert begins at 7 PM. Bring a lawn chair or blanket! Visit [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com) for details, or go to [riverconcertseries.org](http://riverconcertseries.org) to view the summer performance schedule for the River Concert Series at St. Mary's College.



## Paddling McIntosh Run and Breton Bay

Pack up your kayak or canoe and head out to the Port of Leonardtown's kayak launch on McIntosh Run for an exhilarating 2 1/2 mile paddle to the waters of Breton Bay and Leonardtown Wharf Public Park. Take your camera to capture amazing scenery and wildlife – you might even get a glimpse of a Baltimore oriole or wild turkey. If you don't have your own kayak, contact the Patuxent Adventure Center at 410-394-2770 or online at [paxadventure.com](http://paxadventure.com) to rent a kayak for your day of exploring.



## Port of Leonardtown Park

The new Port of Leonardtown Park is a beautiful passive park situated along McIntosh Run. Bring a picnic lunch, grab a bottle of wine at the neighboring Port of Leonardtown Winery, and take time for a peaceful and relaxing spring visit.

## The Office of the Commissioners of Leonardtown will be closed in observance of 2012 Holidays:

- May 28 Memorial Day
- July 4 Independence Day
- September 3 Labor Day
- November 12 Veteran's Day
- November 22 Thanksgiving Day
- November 23 Day after Thanksgiving
- December 24 Christmas Eve
- December 25 Christmas Day

## Leonardtown Celebrates "First Fridays"

Make it a date night! Mark your monthly calendar for Leonardtown's celebration of First Fridays to experience unique dining, shopping, poetry readings, book signings, cooking classes, art gallery receptions, wine tasting, live music and more!



Enjoy First Friday specials offered by participating Leonardtown retailers in downtown Leonardtown, Breton Marketplace, the Maryland Antiques Center Complex, and the Port of Leonardtown Winery. First Fridays in Leonardtown are celebrated on the first Friday evening of every month, year round, 5 PM-8 PM, and are sponsored in cooperation with the Leonardtown Business Association. Check [leonardtownfirstfridays.com](http://leonardtownfirstfridays.com) for monthly specials.

## Downtown Tunes



The 2012 "Downtown Tunes" series will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of May, June, July and August. All shows begin at 6 PM in the Leonardtown Square. Make plans now to gather your family and friends for a fun evening of music and socializing. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. For more information, contact Robin Guyther at 301-904-4452.

Downtown Tunes performance schedule:

- (Raindate: the next day, Sunday)
- May 26: Jazz tunes by **Gretchen Richie** and **Jazz Cabaret**
- June 23: Country sounds by **Country Memories**
- July 28: Acoustic melodies by the **Hamm-It-Ups** and **The Eds**
- August 25: Rock-n-roll favorites by **GeeZer** and **Wiskers**

## Twilight Performance Series CSM – Leonardtown Campus



Bring your family, friends, and a chair or blanket to sit on and enjoy a variety of musical entertainment during the *Twilight Performance Series* on the greens of the College of Southern Maryland – Leonardtown Campus. The concerts are free and begin at 6:45 PM:

- Tuesday, July 17: No Green JellyBeenz
- Tuesday, July 24: Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged
- Tuesday, July 31: Pet the Monster

In the event of inclement weather, performances will move indoors to Building A/Auditorium. Log on to [www.csmd.edu/arts](http://www.csmd.edu/arts) for additional arts and music events that include the LaPlata and Prince Frederick campuses.

## Volunteer at Town Events!

Serving your community is rewarding and Leonardtown is always looking for volunteers to assist with our special events. What a great opportunity for students to have fun and earn those much-needed community service credits! Interested persons should contact Maria Fleming, PR and Event Coordinator, at 301-475-9791 for available volunteer opportunities with Town events.

# VOTE -- VOTE -- VOTE

## 2012 Leonardtown Elections

### Tuesday, May 1, 2012

### Mayor

J. Harry Norris, III

### Town Council

- Walter Wise, *Vice-President*
- Daniel W. Burris
- Thomas R. Collier
- Roger L. Mattingly
- Leslie E. Roberts

### Town Office Staff

- Laschelle McKay, *Town Administrator*
- Rebecca Sothoron, *Treasurer*
- Jackie Post, *Fiscal Clerk*
- Teri Dimsey, *Executive Secretary*
- Cindy Williams, *Town Secretary*
- DeAnn Adler, *Plans Reviewer*
- Maria Fleming, *Public Relations & Event Coordinator*
- Linda Shepherd, *Beacon Editor*
- Barbara Dotson, *Grants Writer*
- Tony Wheatley, *Capital Projects Coordinator*
- Cpl. Peggy Smolarsky, *Town Deputy*

### Utilities Staff

- John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*
- Timmy Lacey, *Operator*
- Joe Bucior, *Operator*
- Kyle Shepherd, *Operator Trainee*

### Planning & Zoning Board Members

- Jean Moulds, *Chair*
- Hayden Hammett, *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 PM in the Town Office. Apr. 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. Apr. 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17.

### 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](mailto:Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net)
- Website: [Leonardtown.somd.com](http://Leonardtown.somd.com)

## Support Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department

Congratulations to Gary Bell, President, Tommy Mattingly, Jr., Chief, and all the 2012 officers for the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department and the Auxiliary! Log on to [lvfd1.org](http://lvfd1.org) for a complete list of the 2012 officers, check out LVFD news, or if you are interested in volunteering or making a tax deductible donation to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department or the Auxiliary.

## Support Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad

Congratulations to Shirley Copado, President, Joe Wilkinson, Chief, and all the 2012 officers for the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Auxiliary! Log on to [lvrs.org](http://lvrs.org) for a complete list of the 2012 officers, check out LVRS news, or if you are interested in volunteering or making a tax deductible donation to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad or Auxiliary

## Logan C. Caton Foundation Upholds MDA Summer Camp

In 2011, the Logan C. Caton Foundation was established by Kristin Caton in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's national research mission. With a desire to aid in a local endeavor, the Logan C. Caton Foundation recently donated \$1,500 to the Camp Maria Retreat Center in Leonardtown. The donation will be used to make necessary repairs to the dilapidated handicap ramps, thus meeting requirements to host MDA's annual summer camp at Camp Maria. Donations can be mailed to the Logan C. Caton Foundation at 23382 Maypole Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

## Annual Veterans Day Parade

Leonardtown was alive with patriotism while thousands of spectators jubilantly cheered for our service men and women during the 2011 Veterans Day Parade. Thanks to parade organizers Tom Warren and Connie Pennington, and all the many volunteers and participants for making this parade such a success.

Following the parade, dignitaries and citizens gathered in the Town Square for a Veterans Day ceremony and laying of wreaths on the Town's Memorial Monuments. Congratulations to Leonardtown Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> students Liam Byers, Katie Kindley, Lauren Menges, and Maddie McCauley on their winning essays "What Veterans Day Means to Me".

## Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting

The unseasonably warm evening enticed a record

crowd to come out and enjoy holiday music, entertainment, and Leonardtown's Christmas Tree Lighting in the Town Square on

Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Town truly appreciates

all our entertainers, performers, volunteers and participants. We would also like to thank the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, the Leonardtown Business Association and the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department for their commitment to ensure the success of this grand holiday event!

## LVRSA Christmas Festival

Beautifully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, a train display, a wagon of toys raffle and seasonal music highlighted the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary's "Christmas Festival" on November 25<sup>th</sup> in the Winegardner Auto Showroom.

## Santa and Mrs. Claus

Joshua and Audrey Green are all smiles during their visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Town Square on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 children were entertained by the popular couple throughout the day.

## "Best Dressed Window Award"

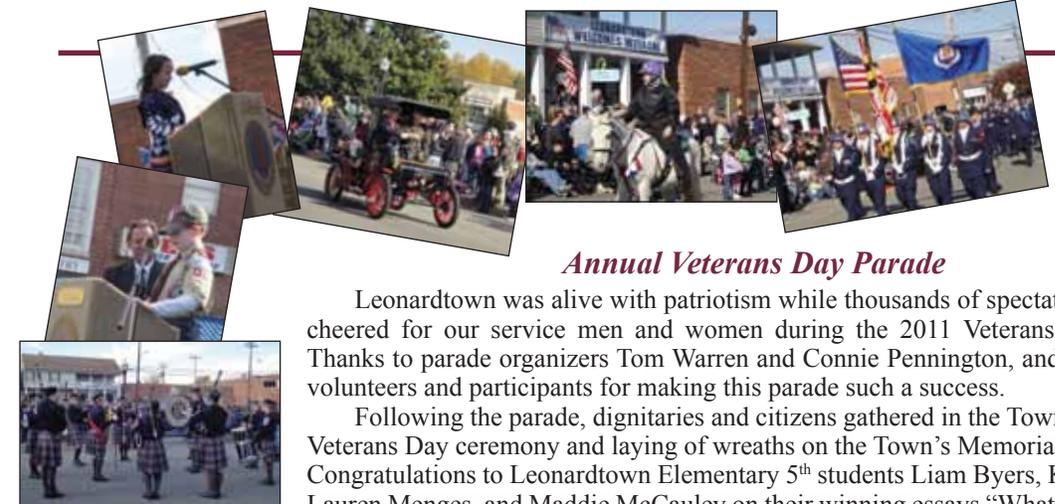
The 2011 "Best Dressed Window Award" was presented to Larry Trader of the Brewing Grounds by Mayor Norris during the January 9, 2012 Town Council meeting. The Town appreciates Leonardtown businesses for decorating their storefronts during the holiday season for the enjoyment of our many residents and visitors.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students of Leonardtown Ponder . . .

### "What Would You Do If You Were Mayor of Leonardtown?"

Leonardtown Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a mock council session hosted by Mayor Norris on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The session is designed to assist students in composing their "If I Were Mayor, I would..." essay for the annual contest sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League's Communication Committee. This year's theme is: "Meeting the Challenge". The students enjoyed voicing their ideas, addressing issues, and making recommendations that would better their town.

One winning essay is selected from each of the MML's 11 regional districts throughout the State. Winners will be recognized during the Mayor's Essay Contest Awards Ceremony in Annapolis.



# Highlights

## State of the Town

The Leonardtown Business Association's meeting of February 10, 2012 featured the annual State of the Town breakfast. The breakfast was held in the new administration building of St. Mary's Hospital. The Town and LBA were appreciative of the hospital staff and Christine Wray, President, for hosting this year's State of the Town event. LBA president Dan Norris gave a hearty welcome and brief introduction to over 100 attendees, followed by a slide presentation by Mayor Chip Norris, who outlined major accomplishments during his past 17 years as Leonardtown's mayor. Highlights included keeping the County Courthouse in downtown Leonardtown, streetscape and highway improvements, economic growth in the Town, planned housing developments, wastewater treatment center updates and other projects. Councilmember Dan Burriss also conveyed information about recent town events and happenings. To join the LBA, contact Dan Norris at [dnorris@drnenvironmentalsolutions.com](mailto:dnorris@drnenvironmentalsolutions.com) or visit the LBA website at [thelba.org](http://thelba.org) for details.



Mayor Norris presented Leonardtown's 2011 "Our Town Award" to the Leonardtown Business Association in recognition of their service, commitment, leadership, growth and pride of Leonardtown. Accepting the award on behalf of the LBA were Maria Battaglia, formerly of the Do Dah Deli and first LBA president, serving from its inception in 2000 to 2002, Town Councilman Dan Burriss of Olde Towne Insurance, LBA president 2003-2008, and Dan Norris of DRN Environmental Solutions, LBA president 2009 to the present. The Our Town Award is a national program, sponsored locally by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Michael K. Gardiner, Owner.

*Congratulations to the 2012 LBA Officers: President: Dan Norris, CEO, DRN Environmental Solutions, LLC; Vice-President: Joe Orlando, Owner, Fenwick Street Used Books & Music; Treasurer: Susan Kilroy, Loan Officer, Community Bank of Tri-County, and Secretary: Randy Richie, Breton Bay Enterprises.*



*Members of Leonardtown's Marketing Committee were recognized for their accomplishments during the State of the Town breakfast. Pictured left to right are Valerie Deptula, The Good Earth Natural Foods Company; Carol Wathen, Heron's Rest Studio; Susan Kilroy, Community Bank of Tri-County; Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator; Carolyn Laray, St. Mary's County Tourism Director; Joe Orlando, Fenwick Street Used Books and Music; Katherine Stormont, Full Stride Communications; and Theresa Johnson, Sr. Executive Director of Marketing, College of Southern Maryland.*

## Public Parking in Leonardtown – Look for the Red Brick Pavers!

Did you know that downtown Leonardtown offers two public parking lots within easy walking distance to shopping and businesses around the Town Square? One lot is located on Park Avenue across from the Good Earth Natural Foods Store. The second lot is located on Washington Street adjacent to The Hair Company salon. These lots can be identified by the environmentally designed brick pavers.

While finding a parking space directly in front of shops and businesses on Washington and Fenwick Streets may be preferred, the Town would like to ask "are you up for a challenge?" On your next visit to the downtown, consider parking in one of these conveniently located public parking lots. You not only save time and gas looking for a parking space, but you will enjoy a short, healthy walk.

Downtown residents and employees are also encouraged to use these public parking lots to allow greater on-street availability for our patrons and visitors.

*Public parking lot on Washington Street adjacent to The Hair Company salon.*



*Public parking lot on Park Avenue, across from the Good Earth Natural Foods Company.*

**FREE STATE'S  
FINEST**  
marylandlife 2011 **WINNERS**

## Leonardtown's "Best of the Best"

Repeating 2011's big win, Downtown Leonardtown was again voted as the Free State's 2012 Finest Best Historic District and Best Shopping area in the Southern Region of Maryland by *Maryland Life Magazine*. Likewise, 2012 "Best of the Best" winners in Leonardtown were:

Café des Artistes - *Best Restaurant, Best Fine Dining, Best Dessert, and Best Appetizer (4 awards)*

Rustic River - *Best Family Restaurant and Best Happy Hour (2 awards)*

Brewing Grounds - *Best Coffeehouse*

North End Gallery - *Best Gallery*

St. Mary's Hospital - *Best Healthcare Facility*

Port of Leonardtown - *Best Winery*

*Other local winners included:*

Captain Leonard's - *Best Crabs*

Bruster's - *Best Ice Cream*

Point Lookout - *Best Park*

Breton Bay Golf & Country Club - *Best Golf*

St. Mary's County Oyster Festival - *Best Festival*

St. Mary's County Fair - *Best Fair*

Sotterley Plantation - *Best place for Family Fun, Best Historic Attraction and Best Place to get Married (3 awards)*

Mary Lou Troutman - *Best Artist*



*During the State of the Town breakfast, Leonardtown winners of Maryland Life Magazine's 2012 "Best of the Best" were recognized: Chef Rick Stommel of Rustic River; Chef Loic Jaffres of Café des Artistes; Jennifer Blake and Valerie Trader, owners of the Brewing Grounds; Tom Ball, artist and member of the North End Gallery; Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator and Mayor Chip Norris on behalf of the Town of Leonardtown; Rich Fuller of the Port of Leonardtown Winery; and Christine Wray, President, Med Star St. Mary's Hospital.*

Spring 2012

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## Attention Residents!

### *Your Maryland Tax Returns - Write in "Leonardtown"!*

Residents! It is important that you write or type in "Leonardtown" in the city, town or taxing area box on your 2011 Maryland income tax return. Local income tax revenues are a large basis of the Town's operating budget. Thanks to you, you are helping to ensure that the Town will receive its proper distribution of your income tax dollars – dollars that will be used right here in Leonardtown! Keep in mind that this does not increase your taxes. If you are not sure whether you live in the corporate limits, please call the Town office at 301-475-9791.

### *Sign Up To Receive Up To Date Emergency Notifications!*

Residents can now receive up to date emergency notifications. It's easy to sign up! Just visit our website at [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com) then scroll down our home page, click on the Leonardtown Resident Emergency Notification link, complete the online form, and submit.

### *Rt. 5 Widening Design Update*

Town residents recently received correspondence from the Maryland State Highway Administration that reviewed options for the widening of Route 5/Point Lookout Road being considered by SHA.

The project has been funded for the study period, however, design and engineering or construction has not been funded. A public hearing is planned this spring to review the proposed options.

Check the Town's website at [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com) for ongoing details, updates and public hearings that may be scheduled.

### *Mayor Norris and Staff . . .*

### *Serving the Town Together*



(l to r) Linda Shepherd, Timmy Lacey, Laschelle McKay, Jay Johnson, Cindy Williams, Joe Bucior, Teri Dimsey, Mayor Chip Norris; Tony Wheatley, Jackie Post, DeAnn Adler, Barbara Dotson, Kyle Shepherd, Rebecca Sothoron, and Maria Fleming (April 2012)

## VOTE -- VOTE -- VOTE

### *2012 Leonardtown Elections*

**Tuesday, May 1, 2012**

Leonardtown's Election Day is Tuesday, May 1, 2012. Residents will vote for the Mayor's seat and two Council seats. A Mayor and five-member Town Council govern Leonardtown with each official serving a four-year term of office.

#### Cast Your Ballot:

Polls will be open for voting on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> between 12:00 noon and 7:00 PM in the Town Office, located in the Proffitt Building on 41660 Courthouse Drive.

Absentee ballots are available from the Town Office. The deadline to submit your completed application for an absentee ballot to the Town Office is Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

#### Information for Voters and Candidates in the 2012

#### Leonardtown Election:

To vote or file as a candidate for elected office in Leonardtown elections, you 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 voter.

The 2012 voter registration deadline for residents to vote in the Leonardtown election is Friday, April 13, 2012.

The deadline for residents to file as a candidate for elected office in the 2012 Leonardtown election is Monday, April 16, 2012.

Having a Leonardtown mailing address or owning property within the incorporated limits does not qualify you as an actual resident. If you wish to confirm that you actually reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, wish to file as a candidate for office, or have other questions about Leonardtown's 2012 election, please contact the Town Office.

If you are not a registered voter and would like to register to vote or update your address, contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791 or the St. Mary's County Board of Elections at 301-475-7844 ext. 1610.

### *Leonardtown on the Web*

Be sure to check the official Leonardtown website often at [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com) for Leonardtown history, current news, special events, project updates, meetings, businesses, resident services, community information, and other announcements.

Leonardtown's Beacon newsletter is also on our website! Read the latest issue, plus glance at earlier issues. Do you currently receive our newsletter via USPS mail? You can help us reduce postage costs when you let us know that you would rather read the newsletter on-line.

### *Trash Collection Survey What's Your Vote...?*

**Change Residential Trash Collection  
from 2 Days a Week to 1 Day a Week?**

The Town Council is considering reducing residential trash collection from twice per week to once per week. Once per week trash collection is expected to reduce the quarterly charge by almost \$7.00. Trash trucks are one of the heaviest vehicles that regularly travel town streets. Reducing the number of times they drive a collection route would decrease wear and tear on those streets. Another significant benefit is reducing the number of times the trucks may encounter children playing in neighborhoods. Recyclables will still be collected once per week, but it is anticipated that a change to once per week trash collection will increase recycling participation. Before making a final decision, the Council would like input from residents and has posted a questionnaire on the town website. Please take a moment to visit [leonardtown.somd.com/survey.htm](http://leonardtown.somd.com/survey.htm) and vote for your preference.

### *Trash Pickup and Recycling Reminders*

**Residential trash** is collected every Tuesday and Friday. **Residential recycling** is picked up on Wednesdays. The next quarterly **bulk trash** pickup date is Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Toters should be set out before 6 AM on pick-up day.

**Holiday Schedule:** During the week of the Memorial Day holiday, trash and recycling pick-ups are on the normally scheduled days. During the week of the Independence Day holiday, trash pick-up is on its normal schedule; recycling pick-up will be on Thursday.

For more information on Leonardtown's trash service, bulk trash, holiday pick-up schedule and acceptable recyclables, or to request a toter, contact the Town Office or visit [leonardtown.somd.com/services](http://leonardtown.somd.com/services)

### *Residential Water Meter Update*

Residential water meter installation was completed last summer and sample billing based on metered consumption was shown on customer's bills for two consecutive quarters. The new water and sewer rate structure was implemented on October 1, 2011 and was reflected on customers' bills received at the end of December.

Metering allows for easier detection of water leaks for residences and provides a more equitable means of billing for all residents. Metering also encourages water conservation among users.

**Reduce water usage by  
making simple changes  
in your daily routines.**



# Matters of a Mayor

(Continued from cover)

for future development, which includes waterfront on Breton Bay. In 2002, the Town of Leonardtown received a Smart Growth Award from the State of Maryland recognizing effective neighborhood planning while maintaining Leonardtown's rich heritage and vibrant culture.

To accommodate our residents, businesses and projected growth, Leonardtown's waste water treatment plant is also moving forward with upgrades and expansion. In 1972, Leonardtown hosted a population of approximately 1,300. Today, the Town of Leonardtown is home to over 3,000 residents.

Before long, Leonardtown will march on to a new beat, when Town residents vote for a new mayor this coming May. However, the matters of Leonardtown's newly elected mayor will parallel that of precedent mayors . . . to focus on citizen services, business and economic standing, conservation of our history and heritage, planning for future generations, and beautification of the Town of Leonardtown.

While complete harmony may not always be reflected in day to day decisions, one thing we can all agree on is Chip's love and his care for Leonardtown. Chip has lived here all his life and enjoys sharing his Leonardtown memories. For an interesting story, a good laugh, or a tidbit of town history, look for Chip during a Leonardtown event or outing – we're pretty confident he'll be checking on our progress!

## Remembering Clancy Lyall

The Town extends its condolences to the family of local war hero, Clancy Lyall. Clancy coordinated St. Mary's County's Annual Veterans Day Parade from its inception in 1975 to 2004. During the early years, this parade was held at Lexington Park and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. In 1993, the parade was relocated to Leonardtown, where it has grown and is deemed as the largest Veterans Day Parade in the State of Maryland.

An extension of thanks from Mayor Norris recognizing Clancy's culmination

of 30 years of volunteerism as official parade coordinator during the annual Veterans Day Parade in 2004.



An annual tradition for many years, Chip moderates a mock Town Council meeting with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Leonardtown Elementary School that will assist them in writing their essay for MML's "If I Were Mayor" contest.



Dick Russell, Chairman of the Leonardtown Lions Club's "Christmas for the Needy" program for over 27 years, enjoys showing gifts collected for county children in 2003 with Chip and staff members Linda Shepherd and Victoria Berkshire.

Chip, announcing the 2011 Veterans Parade with Captain (ret.) Barbara Ives and School Board member Mary Washington.



## Hayden Farm Annexed into Leonardtown

At the March 12, 2012 Town Council meeting a public hearing was held regarding the annexation request for 171.18 acres known as the Hayden Farm. The Town Council voted to accept this property into the Town to access public water and sewer to accommodate proposed schools. The Leonardtown Elementary School is currently significantly over capacity and the St. Mary's Public School system has approval to proceed with a new elementary school on the property. A future middle school and early childhood center are also proposed on the property. The St. Mary's County Commissioners have received funding from Program Open Space to design a 25 acre public park with possible multi-purpose athletic fields, practice fields, a dog park, and pedestrian and playground amenities. Funding for construction is not in place at the current time.

Because of the public benefits for Leonardtown and St. Mary's County residents, the Town Council felt that supporting the annexation of the property was important. Questions arose at the public hearing about the availability of sewer capacity for these projects. Over the last three years the Town Council had limited the approval of projects that could move forward for development unless they met a certain criteria; one being public projects. In 2008 as the economy took a severe downturn the Council had decided to postpone the expansion of the Leonardtown Wastewater Treatment Plant which was nearing capacity. The Council has always pledged that the cost of expanding the facility for new development would not be on the shoulders of existing residents but would instead be funded from new development. Impact fees charged on new projects for water and sewer are significant and are set based on costs of new infrastructure needed to support growth within the Town. When the economy turned it was not assured that these fees would be able to keep up with the expense of the expansion and the project was put on hold.

In August of 2011 the Council voted to once again move forward on the expansion, although on a smaller scale, which would be more economically feasible with the current proposed development. Working with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the St. Mary's County Health Department, the Council has been able to move these projects forward in the approval process with the plans for expansion underway.

A second component, and a requirement by the State, is to also upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Process. The Town upgraded to the current Biological Nutrient Removal Process in the early 2000's. These upgrades are partially funded by grants from the Maryland Department of the Environment through funds from the Bay Restoration Program. The balance of the cost of the mandated upgrade is funded by all Town residents through their utility bills.

Leonardtown is one of two development districts in St. Mary's County and is the only incorporated Town. We can expect continued growth in the Town and want to ensure that it is well planned.



# Town Tidbits

## Corner Critters Pet Shop

Looking for an amazing pet shop? Stop by Corner Critters on the Leonardtown Square for a variety of salt and freshwater fish, birds, exotics, reptiles, live rock, coral and small animals such as ferrets, chinchillas, guinea pigs and rabbits. You can also find pet accessories and supplies including items for cats and dogs. Corner Critters, owned and operated by Bob Feldhaus and Ron and Vickie Frederick, has been a Leonardtown staple for over 18 years. Come on in, browse around and meet their friendly, knowledgeable staff. The pets can be found at 22680 Washington Street, Monday-Saturday 10 AM-7 PM and Sundays 10:30 AM-2 PM. 301-475-5384.



## Chez Nous Art In Wire

Located at 41665 Fenwick Street in historic downtown Leonardtown, Chez Nous Art In Wire offers one of a kind high quality hand crafted fine jewelry and a variety of European artisan chocolates hand crafted by German Chocolatier Albert Kirchmayr. Visit this unique shop Monday thru Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM. Closed Sunday. 240-538-4571.

## Cast Your Wooden Nickel and Support A Local Charity

Bring your own shopping bag to the Good Earth Natural Foods Store and receive a wooden nickel. Drop your nickel in a jar to vote for the So. Md. Chapter of the Red Cross, Three Oaks Center, or Pets with Disabilities. The Good Earth will donate the value of the wooden nickels collected throughout the

year to each specific charity. Visit the Good Earth online at [goodearthnaturals.com](http://goodearthnaturals.com) or at 41675 Park Avenue in Leonardtown.

## Farmer's Market Opening Soon

Keep an eye out for the return of the Friday Farmer's Market on the Town Square between late April through September, 11 AM-5 PM (*weather permitting*). The market offers fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers, homemade jellies, jams and baked goods provided by local farmer Marvin Steiner.



## Mission of Mercy of SoMD

Herb Reed and The Platters entertained a great crowd with top hits and holiday selections at Leonardtown High School on December 10, 2011. While in Town, the group enjoyed overnight accommodations provided by Leonardtown's Executive Inn & Suites. Band members commented to event planning members that the hospitality they received was the best ever!

This event was a FUNraising activity for Mission of Mercy (MOM) of SoMD. MOM is a national endeavor that provides free dental services for underserved and uninsured adults and Veterans who are unable to pay for needed dental services. A two-day clinic for Southern Maryland will be held on June 22 and 23, 2012 at Chopticon High School. Appointments for the clinic can be made by contacting the St. Mary's, Calvert or Charles County Health Department. Volunteers are needed to assist with this two-day clinic. If you would like to volunteer or support the Mission of Mercy of SoMD, call 301-247-3283.

## eReader at Leonardtown Library

Stop by the Leonardtown Library and try an eReader. The Library has several of the popular eReaders that you can check out and use in the library or let staff demonstrate how to use them. The library staff can also help you with your eReader. Visit the Library's website at [stmalib.org](http://stmalib.org) to view their collection of eBooks that can be downloaded for free.

## Staff Notes

The Town welcomes Maria Fleming as our new Public Relations and Event Coordinator. Maria is excited to be onboard and is looking forward to meeting all our fantastic event participants, supporters and spectators! Please contact Maria at [maria.fleming2@verizon.net](mailto:maria.fleming2@verizon.net) or 301-475-9791 with your Leonardtown event inquiries.



## Deputy's Corner

Town Deputy Cpl. Smolarsky and local law enforcement are accelerating their lookout for drivers exceeding posted speed limits in Leonardtown. Heightened speed control is underway along the Route 5 corridor between Route 243 and Route 245. Speeding drivers will be ticketed and fines will be issued.

Did you know that open garage doors and unlocked vehicles are an invitation to unwanted thieves? In addition to your home entry doors, keep your garage door closed and vehicles locked.

It's the law - clean up and properly dispose of your dog's waste. Look for pet waste disposal containers located in the Town Square and Leonardtown Wharf Park. Offenders will be charged a \$50 fine.



# Leonardtown BEACON

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