

# Leonardtowntown BEACON

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

At Home in Leonardtown featuring . . .

## NOT MISSING: WWII Hero, Captain Walter Francis Duke

By: Al Gough

In March of 1944 the South-East Asia command commenced concerted efforts to drive the Japanese Air Force out of Burma and then ultimately the Japanese army. One of St. Mary's County's "greatest generation" was to play a leading role in the endeavor.



March 30, 1944 he wrote: "I am getting my share... I get a little scared in the tough spots but I am doing okay. The next time I write I will have something special to tell you about.....I haven't received a scratch as yet. I have 52 missions and have been awarded the

Air Medal....there is nothing to getting the Air Medal. Out here they are a dime a dozen."

Walter Francis Duke was born in Leonardtown, MD on August 6, 1921, one of nine children of Roland B. "Colonel" Duke (1893-1960) and Lillian Drury Duke (1895-1971). Walter grew up in Leonardtown in a "Tom Sawyer World", graduating from Saint Mary's Academy in 1940 where he played football, was a proficient violinist and was president of his senior class and of the Drama Society. Shortly after graduation he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force transferring to the United States Army Air Corps upon the United States' entry into war on December 7, 1941. He received advanced flight training and graduated at the top of his class at Napier Field, Dothan, Alabama in May of 1942. In August 1942 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 89<sup>th</sup> fighter squadron of the 80<sup>th</sup> fighter group at Mitchell field in Long Island. They were the second air corps group to be issued the new P47 Thunderbolts. On April 13, 1943 he married his longtime sweetheart, Verja Graham of Washington D.C. Verja had been a border at Saint Mary's Academy in Leonardtown and "Walters best girl through eight years of school and his accompanist at violin recitals." One week after the wedding Walter, now a First Lieutenant, shipped out to India.

During the period between March 11, 1944 and June 6, 1944 Captain Duke was credited with destroying 19 enemy planes and becoming the squadron's and Maryland's leading war ace. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, he, along with 10 other Lightning pilots led by Captain Luehring, participated in the longest fighter sweep ever attempted in the CBI Theater. Captain Luehring and his squadron flew to Rangoon Burma, some 460 miles to the target and descending from 27,000 feet to some 200 to 300 feet off the ground and with frosted windshields resulting from the descent in altitude swept across the target area at 450 mph. Captain Luehring and Lt. Goodrich were credited with destroying one bomber on the ground, Captain Broadfoot and Lt. Jarvis with another, Lt. Sealy knocked out a Sally, Duke was credited with one black sedan and Boggs got a tar mixer! The following day Captain Duke participated in a 9 plane sweep on Heho. They accounted for 7 planes shot down with two damaged and 2 destroyed on the ground and 3 damaged. Duke was credited with destroying one Oscar in the air. The 459<sup>th</sup> would receive a distinguished unit citation for destroying 119 planes between March 11 and May 19, 1944. Such was the life of a fighter pilot, fast, furious and deadly.

After five hours of training on the P38 he began flying combat missions with the 459<sup>th</sup>. He would name his P38 the "Miss V" after his wife Verja. The 459<sup>th</sup> began operations primarily as escort for bombers striking such targets as Rangoon and Meiktila. On March 11, 1944 Walter got his first official victory, shooting down two enemy aircraft for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and a promotion to Captain. In a letter to his family written



On May 27 he received word that orders were to be cut for his return home. To celebrate his return St. Mary's County planned a "Duke Day" celebration in concert with the County's Fifth War bond campaign of which his father, Colonel Duke was the chairman. It was not to be. On the eve of the celebration (June 22<sup>nd</sup>) word was received that Captain Duke had been missing in Burma since June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Continued on page 7



### Calendar of Events

#### FIRST FRIDAY-EVERY MONTH

Celebration of "First Fridays"  
Historic downtown and uptown  
Leonardtown

#### OCTOBER 26

Trick-or-Treat on the Square  
Leonardtown Square

#### NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Parade  
Leonardtown Square

#### NOVEMBER 17

National Youth 5K  
Leonardtown Wharf

#### NOVEMBER 29

Christmas on the Square  
Leonardtown Square

#### NOVEMBER 29

Christmas Festival  
Winegardner Motor Co. Showroom

#### DECEMBER 14

Santa on the Square  
Leonardtown Square

Mark your calendar for these  
Spring 2014 Leonardtown events:

#### APRIL 13

Earth Day Celebration  
Leonardtown Square

#### JUNE 6, 7 & 8

Raiders and Invaders Weekend  
Leonardtown Wharf Park and  
Leonardtown Square

Visit the Town of  
Leonardtowntown on the web at  
[leonardtowntown.somd.com](http://leonardtowntown.somd.com)  
for current news and happenings  
in and around Town, and to read  
current and earlier publications  
of the Leonardtown Beacon  
newsletter online.



## Mayor's Message

Leonardtown has had its share of challenges throughout the years, but for the last decade things have been on a course for ensuring that it stays a great place to live, work and play. As the entire area looks to diversify from its dependence solely on Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Leonardtown has continued to look at ways to diversify its economy as well. We have successfully redeveloped Leonardtown Wharf, have a thriving downtown square, key anchor institutions such as Medstar St. Mary's Hospital and the College of Southern Maryland have continued to thrive and the family friendly Town events have gained popularity.

The Arts have become another major piece of that success in Leonardtown. Recently Leonardtown was designated a Maryland Arts and Entertainment District. This is the first such designation in Southern Maryland and only the 22<sup>nd</sup> district in the State. The Arts and Entertainment District does have some tax benefits for property owners and artists but the biggest benefit is the statewide marketing opportunities for the Town.

Last month Leonardtown also received Governor O'Malley's Sustainable Community designation. This is a Smart Growth designation to foster revitalization in existing cities and towns. The designation opens opportunities for grants for projects such as sidewalk improvements, redevelopment projects and projects to enhance connectivity of all neighborhoods. We look forward to continuing on this path to maintaining and improving this wonderful community we live in.

*Daniel W. Burris*

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor



Leonardtown Beacon

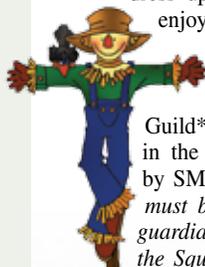
## Discover "First Fridays" in Leonardtown



The place to be on "First Fridays" is Leonardtown! Each month from 5 PM-8 PM, many Leonardtown businesses in the downtown and uptown shopping centers, including the Port of Leonardtown Winery, come together to offer you shopping and dining specials, gallery receptions, live music, cooking classes, book signings, wine tastings, themed events and more! On the November 1<sup>st</sup> First Friday, author Jonothan Nordstrom will sign and read from his children's book *Sometimes Sleep* at the Leonardtown Arts Center. Keep an eye on the County Times and check [leonardtownfirstfridays.com](http://leonardtownfirstfridays.com) regularly for the list of participating "First Fridays" businesses, specials, and entertainment. Leonardtown First Fridays are sponsored in cooperation with the Leonardtown Business Association.

## Trick-or-Treat Fun

An afternoon of family fun is planned for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM-3 PM in the Leonardtown Square. Kids are welcome to dress up in their favorite costume and enjoy trick-or-treating with downtown merchants!\* Everyone is invited to create a life-sized scarecrow with the St. Mary's Craft Guild\* and to vote for their favorite pet in the pet costume contest sponsored by SMAWL! \*Please note: Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian while trick-or-treating around the Square, and there is an \$8 fee per scarecrow to cover supplies.



Also on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, the film *Hocus Pocus* will be shown at 3:30 PM at the College of So. Md. (Leonardtown Campus) in the Auditorium (Bldg. A). Admission is free, thanks to the Friends of the Leonardtown Theatre and Big Larry's!

## Surprises at the Library

The Leonardtown Library offers free computer classes for adults. Create your own holiday correspondence in the Holiday News and Photos class, or explore various eReaders and tablets in the Shopping for your eReader class. Children of all ages look forward to parties, and are invited to a fun Halloween party on October 29<sup>th</sup> and a "Holiday Surprise" on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Both parties begin at 6 PM with themed stories, crafts and games. Visit [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org) for more information about the many programs, events and services at your Leonardtown Library!

## LHJNA Antique Show

To find memorabilia, furniture, linens, glass, jewelry, artwork, toys and other treasures, stop by the Leonard Hall Jr. Naval Academy's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Antique Show! The Show will be open from 9 AM-5 PM on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and from 10 AM-3 PM on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Leonard Hall Drill Hall, located at 23115 Leonard Hall Drive in Leonardtown. \$5 admission. Visit [lhjna.com](http://lhjna.com) or call LHJNA at 301-475-8029 for additional information.

## Salute America's Veterans! Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Ceremony

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's County Veterans Day Parade will commemorate Captain Walter Francis Duke on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> on the Square in Leonardtown! The parade begins at 10 AM on Fenwick Street, proceeds thru the Town Square, and ends at Courthouse Drive. Come and see Veterans, school bands, civic organizations, scouts, cheerleaders, dance troupes, motorcycles, antique cars, horses, and so many others! Free hand-held American flags will be dispersed among the crowd... wave your flag proudly! The SMC Veterans Day Parade is recognized as the largest Veterans Day Parade in Maryland, and in 2012, was designated as a National Veterans Day Regional Site by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.



A Veterans Memorial Ceremony will be held in the Town Square immediately following the parade. Join in as we honor our service men and women with words of tribute, patriotic music, laying of wreaths on the war memorials, and a bi-plane fly-over.

The annual Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Ceremony in Leonardtown are sponsored by the St. Mary's County Commissioners, and the Commissioners of Leonardtown. Call the Town Office at 301-475-9791 for more information.

## A Special Commemoration

This year's Veterans Day Parade Planning Committee is proud to announce that the 2013 parade will be dedicated to the memory and family of Captain Walter Francis Duke, local WWII pilot flying ace and war hero for whom Leonardtown's new elementary school is being named. Family members will be a part of the parade as well as the memorial service that follows, and images of Captain Duke will be seen on the program.



## Veterans Day Parking

**SPECTATORS!** Parking and shuttles for spectators will be available at the SMC Fairgrounds and at the Leonardtown campus of the College of So. Md.

**PARTICIPANTS!** Parking and shuttle services are available at Leonardtown Middle School. To alleviate congestion at Route 5 and Ryken High School, parents of scouts and other marching groups are asked to park at Leonardtown Middle School and take the shuttle, rather than dropping off individuals at Ryken.

Visit the Town's website at [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com) for more information and to see a detailed parking map.

## National Youth 5K

Help kids learn to OVERCOME challenges in life; DREAM about their true purpose; and SUCCEED with help from their Team. The inaugural Pax River Youth 5K and 1 mile Fun Run will start at Leonardtown Wharf Park on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. As part of the National Youth 5K Series, the race strives to inspire a love of running and desire to live a healthy lifestyle. Email [cynthia.p.lisa@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.p.lisa@gmail.com) for more information.

## "It's Movie Night!"

### Friends of the Leonardtown Theatre

The Friends of the Leonardtown Theatre are excited about their Fall Film Series. "Midnight in Paris" was enjoyed in September and "Forget Paris" was a hit in October. All-time favorite "Private Radio" (R) will be featured on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and "Moonrise Kingdom" (PG-13) will be presented on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and enjoy these classics! Doors open at 7 PM, the movie starts at 8 PM, and tickets are \$5 at the door. The theatre is located at the Dorsey Law Building on Washington Street (across from Father Andrew White School.) Email [foflt@outlook.com](mailto:foflt@outlook.com) or visit Facebook for more information.



## Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting

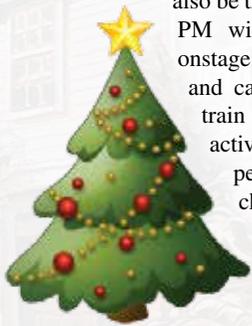
Gather your family and friends and come out to Leonardtown's Christmas on the Square and Annual Tree Lighting event on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>! Santa is on his way to light the Town Christmas tree, and Mrs. Claus will also be there! Festivities begin at 5

PM with sounds of Christmas, onstage entertainment, horse and carriage rides, sleigh rides, train rides and hayrides. Other activities include a live nativity, petting zoo, face painting, children's crafts, and more.

Warm up with a cup of hot chocolate, munch on fresh kettle korn, and be sure to stop into the

downtown restaurants and gift shops too! For easier access into the downtown, park at the College of Southern Maryland and take the free, round-trip shuttle bus.

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, the Leonardtown Business Association, and the Commissioners of Leonardtown sponsor this exciting holiday event. Check [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com) online to watch for the latest details. (Rain date: Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Tree Lighting only.)



## LVRSA Christmas Festival

Decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and a holiday train display highlight the annual Christmas Festival sponsored by the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary. The folks at Winegardner Motor Company on the Leonardtown Square graciously make their



showroom available for this event on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> between 5 PM-9 PM. Other activities include face painting, a silent auction and a wagon of toys raffle. Donations accepted. For more information or to donate a decorated tree or wreath, contact Ricky Chesser at [rchesser@milcorp.com](mailto:rchesser@milcorp.com) or 240-298-5310.

## Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square

Kids of all ages! Come visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM-1 PM in the Leonardtown Square. Remember to bring your Christmas "wish list" for Santa and a camera for photos. (In the event of inclement weather, Santa & Mrs. Claus will be in the Winegardner Motor Company showroom.)

## Leonardtown Art Galleries Celebrate the Holidays!

The **North End Gallery** will celebrate its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual "Holiday Show" from November 26<sup>th</sup> through December 29<sup>th</sup>. The artists will host a holiday reception on Friday evening, December 6<sup>th</sup>, and look forward to talking with you and showing you their latest creations! The **North End Gallery**, Leonardtown's oldest art gallery is located at 41652 Fenwick Street. Check [northendgallery.org](http://northendgallery.org) or call 301-475-3130 for gallery hours, history, artists, and monthly show schedule.

**Opal Fine Art** will celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Gift Show beginning November 29<sup>th</sup> thru January 14<sup>th</sup>. Come meet the artists during a special opening reception on Friday evening, December 6<sup>th</sup>. **Opal Fine Art** features original, one-of-a-kind artwork (no reproductions) and is located at 41625 Park Avenue. For gallery hours and information, check Facebook or call 302-438-1629

The **Leonardtown Arts Center** is an amazing experience where you can watch painters, sculptors, jewelers and other artists at work in their studio. Make plans now to visit with the artists during a special holiday reception on Friday evening, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The **Leonardtown Arts Center** is located in historic downtown Leonardtown at 22660 Washington Street on the Second Floor. Check [leonardtownartscenter.com](http://leonardtownartscenter.com) or Facebook for more details.

**Yellow Door Art Studios** offers studio art classes for children and specialty workshops for adults, including drawing, painting, mixed media, small sculpture, and new media. Artistic development of each artist is encouraged. The studio is open Monday evenings and on weekends during class hours. Stop by on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> to create "make & take" ornaments and check out the splatter paint gift certificates! **Yellow Door Art Studios** is located at 22760 Washington Street in downtown Leonardtown. For more information, visit [yellowdoorartstudios.com](http://yellowdoorartstudios.com) or call 240-925-1888.



### Mayor

Daniel W. Burriss

### Town Council

Leslie E. Roberts, Vice President  
Thomas R. Collier  
Hayden T. Hammett  
J. "Jay" Maguire Mattingly, IV  
Roger L. Mattingly

### 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, *PR & Event Coordinator*  
Linda Shepherd, *Beacon Editor*  
Tony Wheatley, *Capital Project Coordinator*  
Cpl. Peggy Smolarsky, *Town Deputy*

### Utilities Staff

John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*  
Timmy Lacey, *Operator*  
Joe Bucior, *Operator*  
Kyle Shepherd, *Maintenance Technician*

### Planning & Zoning Board Members

Jean Moulds, *Chair*  
John "Jack" Candela  
Heather Earhart  
Christy Sterling  
Laura Schultz

### Board of Appeals

Dr. Herbert Winnik, *Chair*  
Jerome DuVal  
Marcus Popetz  
Darren Meyer  
Joan Ritchie

### Meetings

**Town Council** - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office.  
November 12\*, December 9, 2013; January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, 2014.  
\*Tuesday meeting due to Monday holiday.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. November 18, December 16, 2013; January 21\*, February 18, March 17, April 21, 2014.  
\*Tuesday meeting due to 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](mailto:Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net)  
Website: [Leonardtown.somd.com](http://Leonardtown.somd.com)

### The Office of the Commissioners of Leonardtown will be closed in observance upcoming holidays:

November 11	Veteran's Day
November 28	Thanksgiving Day
November 29	Day after Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17	President's Day

## River Concert Series on Location



With Don Stapleson on flute, Peter Fields on guitar and Fred Lieder on cello, *Clazzical Jazz* charmed the July 6th audience in

the Square with a unique mix of classical music and jazz rhythms. Many thanks to the Chesapeake Orchestra and the St. Mary's County and Maryland Arts Councils for facilitating this concert!

## Beach Party on the Square

Sounds of fun and laughter were heard all over Town during Leonardtown's "Beach Party" event on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. New fascinations included a replica wooden Viking Vessel with cultural tools and artifacts brought by the Longship Company Viking Reenactors, the Happily Ever After Princesses, and the debut of Mermaid Alexis. Once again, fire truck hosesdowns, sand volleyball play, tug-of-war competitions, juggling by Michael Rosman, dancing to the 25<sup>th</sup> Hour Band, and Running of the Balls offered excitement for all! Special thanks to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Leonardtown businesses, the LBA, and all the sponsors, performers, participants and vendors who always make this such a fantastic event!



## US Navy Band Cruisers Perform in Leonardtown Square

The Cruisers U. S. Navy Band Contemporary Ensemble came to Leonardtown on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and with great energy and emotion, performed a mix of current Top 40, classic tunes, patriotic music and original material for an enthusiastic crowd. Originally slated for the Town Square, weather conditions shifted the performance indoors to St. Mary's Ryken High School.



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Leonardtown Beacon

## Celebrating National Night Out

The neighborhoods of Leonard's Freehold and Leonardtown Village joined in the celebration of National Night Out on August 6<sup>th</sup> with a tasty picnic, outdoor games, and cooling off with fire truck hose-downs. Cpl. James Stone of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was on site and discussed the importance of neighborhood safety with the children and adults.



## "Let's Move" To Promote Health and Wellness

The Town of Leonardtown is excited about their commitment to the national "Let's Move" program of promoting health and wellness for children and families. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Chef Loic Jaffres was a special guest of the summer camp operated by Bridges of St. Mary's County and First Saints Community Church for children in the Leonard's Freehold community. Chef Loic interacted with the children while preparing fresh veggies for a healthy batch of Ratatouille and sharing the benefits of good nutrition. The children also enjoyed hearing of Chef Loic's aspirations to become a chef and telling how



they help with kitchen duties at home. Of course, the highlight of the day was eating the colorful and tasty Ratatouille for lunch! Kate Bonnevier, this year's summer camp coordinator, enjoyed working with these enthusiastic campers. In addition to summer camp, Bridges and First Saints in Leonardtown operate the Educational Outreach Center which offers after-school reading and homework assistance to area residents and also assists in caring for a neighborhood vegetable garden. The Town supplied the section of ground for the vegetable garden and believes a healthy community is a community we can be proud of.

## Cruising to Leonardtown

On Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> the Town Square roared with classic cars and motorcycles for the Second Annual Poker Walk to benefit Vacations for Vets and The Greenwell Foundation. Many thanks to the event volunteers, participating Leonardtown businesses, event sponsors and the Bar Dogs for providing live music. Proceeds will be used to provide wounded troops and their families a fun, relaxing vacation at Greenwell State Park.



## Fall Follies

"Fall Follies" on the Town Square is known for its annual showing of art, crafts and skilled artisans of the Craft Guild Shop. Over 30 crafters



participated in this year's event, showing baskets, jewelry, quilting, woodworking, toys, baby outfits, and even homemade jellies – perfect for gift-giving. If you missed "Fall Follies" you can still see the handiwork of these crafters by visiting the Craft Guild Shop. For holiday shopping, the Shop will be open 7 days a week in December. The crafters also invite you to enjoy a special Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-5 PM. The Craft Guild Shop is located at 26005 Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown. For details, check [craftguildshop.com](http://craftguildshop.com) or call 301-997-1644.

## A Taste of St. Mary's

Over 4,000 hungry folks came to the Town Square to enjoy a perfect fall day and to taste a variety of delicious food samples at the Taste of St. Mary's on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Lines were steady throughout the day for stuffed ham, ice cream, bar-b-que, seafood and other specialties offered by the many restaurants and caterers. This savory event is sponsored by the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce. [smcchamber.com](http://smcchamber.com).



## Congratulations to this year's Taste of St. Mary's winners!

### Best Appetizer:

Stoney's Solomons Pier (tuna bits)

### Best Entrée:

Stoney's Solomon's Pier (crab cake slider)

### Best Specialty Item:

N & N Oriental Market & Carry Out (shrimp lumpia)

### Best Dessert:

Boomerangs Original Ribs (peach cobbler)

### People's Choice:

Boomerangs Original Ribs

# Highlights

## Leonardtown Designated as a Maryland Arts and Entertainment District

A celebration of Leonardtown's designation as the newest Arts and Entertainment District in Maryland and unveiling of the new Arts and Entertainment District logo highlighted the September 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday. Joining the Arts and Entertainment District Committee, Mayor Dan Burris, the Leonardtown Town Council, Leonardtown Business Association, and local arts community were Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Hannah Byron, Chairperson of the Maryland State Arts Council Barbara Bershon, Leonardtown. Many enjoyed partaking in the Art Walk around Town that was designed to emphasize the Arts and Entertainment designation. Participating businesses displayed local art that was voted on by public ballot. It was a great evening of visual arts, theater, interactive displays, art demos, crafts for all ages, fantastic music by Jennifer Cooper and Groovespan, and horse and carriage rides by Suttler Post Farm.



Proudly displaying Leonardtown's newly-revealed Arts & Entertainment District logo are Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Hannah Byron, Pamela Dunne, Program Director for the Maryland State Arts Council, Town Administrator Laschelle McKay, Mayor Dan Burris, Barbara Bershon, Chairperson of the Maryland State Arts Council and Theresa Colvin, Director of the Maryland State Arts Council.



The Town Council sports their one-of-a-kind, Jackson-Pollack-inspired sneakers, hand-painted by students of the Yellow Door Art Studios.



Just one of many live art displays on the Square, local artist Sandra Cromwell demonstrates her painting skills for passersby.

## "Pink Friday" Fun!

If you see flamingoes in the Town Square, it must be a celebration of **Pink Friday!** Beautifully decorated bras captivated attention throughout the evening to support the October 4<sup>th</sup> First Friday efforts of raising money for breast cancer. Former *Blonde Ambition* sirens Patty Dorsch and Sheila Mattingly teamed up with Lissie Deere and



Rosemarie Stanek for the first time ever as the *Hot Toddlies* band, wowing the crowd with a sizzling set of classic favorites. With such clever themes as "Treasure Chest", "Support our Troops", and "Outta Sight" the Uplifting Art Exhibit fundraiser inspired people to vote by donation for their favorite style. The bra called "Trick or Treat" by Sigrid Stiles was the winner, and \$501 was collected for the cause from



this contest. Thanks to Nell Elder and the SMC Arts Council for coordinating this component of the event! This year's beneficiary, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, was on hand to provide information about breast cancer services, and right next to them were last year's honorees, the Sisters with BRACatude, raising money for the American Cancer Society. If you missed **Pink Friday**, you can still contribute to MedStar St. Mary's Cancer Screening, Early Detection and Support programs.

## Councilmember Roger Mattingly Graduates

Councilmember Roger Mattingly joins Councilmember Leslie Roberts in becoming a



graduate of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance. The Maryland Municipal League is a founding partner of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance, a voluntary certificate training program in partnership with the University of Maryland's School of public Policy for municipal and county officials designed to help public officials meet the challenges of their roles.

## Town Receives Grant for Cedar Lane

The Town was recently awarded an \$800,000 grant from the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development. This was a great partnership project with the staff and Board at Cedar Lane. The Community Development Block Grant will be used to install sprinklers throughout the older section of the Cedar Lane apartment complex, and includes installation of a generator to provide power during any outages. The staff and residents of this senior living community are looking forward to the new upgrades that will help ensure the safety of all.

## Wesley Chapel

Colonel and Mrs. Christopher P. Aiken (AUS, Ret) who own the building at 22760 Washington Street in Leonardtown, MD, placed a commemorative plaque that identifies it as the 'Wesley Chapel/Old Town Hall' building on September 15, 2013. This is the oldest building on Washington Street having its foundation laid as "The site had both a church and cemetery until the construction of Wesley Chapel in 1847 in the center of Leonardtown village". It is identified in two historical documents (SM-67, METHODIST MEETING HOUSE CHURCH SITE & CEMETERY, and SM-530, WESLEY CHAPEL.)



Wesley Chapel represents a building with a significant history of adaptive reuse. The chapel was built in c. 1852 to replace the first Methodist Episcopal Meeting House (SM-67). Ever since its initial construction, the two-story brick chapel has been modified to fit the needs of subsequent owners. Although altered, the building still retains much of its character defining architectural elements making it a significant building in Leonardtown's streetscape. In 1895, the Debating Society sold the building to the Town Hall Company for use as a governmental facility. During this time it served as a silent movie theater and center for town meetings. The Duke family eventually bought the building in 1936 and made several modifications. This included adding a second and attic story, modifying the gable roof, and constructing several shed dormers and cross gables. In 2002, the Aiken's purchased the building, re-pointed the brick and made other changes to maintain its historical significance.



"Highlights" Continue on page 6.

Summer 2013

**“Highlights”** (Continued from page 5)

**Be A Part of History! Help Us Plan  
A “Raiders & Invaders” Weekend**

Huzzah! Raiders & Invaders Weekend is set for June 6, 7 & 8, 2014, with fabulous festival events in Leonardtown on Friday and Saturday, and fantastic opportunities for activities throughout the county on Sunday. This will be St. Mary’s County and Leonardtown’s signature War of 1812 Bicentennial event. Ours will be one of many taking place throughout the Chesapeake Bay region and will be part of a state and regional marketing effort. To ensure that we shine amidst all this glory, we are looking for partners, ideas and sponsors.

We need your help! Members of the Tourism & Hospitality Industry, Non-profit Organizations, Event Producers, Sites and Museums invite you to a planning meeting on Tuesday, October 29th at 6 PM, in the Auditorium, Building A, of the College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus.

- Hear about plans being developed by the Raiders & Invaders Event Steering Committee and the St. Mary’s County Division of Tourism.
- Kick around ideas and ways to join the fun and which also benefit your organization or business.

Bring your creativity and enthusiasm. Beverages and light snacks will be served. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Carolyn Laray, SMC Tourism Manager, at [carolyn.laray@stmarysmd.com](mailto:carolyn.laray@stmarysmd.com) or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1403.

**“Raiders & Invaders”  
Event Partners:**



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Leonardtown Beacon

**Leonardtown Business  
Association News**

Do you enjoy marketing your business, networking with others, and benefiting from cooperative advertising? Do you like to hear about the latest Leonardtown news and projects? Do you look forward to meeting Town and County leaders, business representatives and special guests? If you answered “Yes!” to any of these questions, we believe you would enjoy a membership in the Leonardtown Business Association! LBA meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 8:30 AM. Meeting locations differ each month so that LBA members have the opportunity to showcase their business. Visit [thelba.org](http://thelba.org) today, or contact Dan Norris, LBA President, at [dan.norris0707@gmail.com](mailto:dan.norris0707@gmail.com) for membership details.

**Performers and Volunteers  
NEEDED!**

Leonardtown is always interested in hearing from our local, talented performers, musicians, dancers, jugglers, clowns and other family-oriented artists and volunteers. Contact Maria Fleming, PR and Event Coordinator, at [leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net](mailto:leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net) or 301-475-9791.



**Deputy’s Corner**

Leonardtown’s Deputy, Cpl. Peggy Smolarsky, alerts of a phenomenon that is creeping upon our area – and it involves motorists filling up their car at the gas pumps. Motorists should be aware that would-be thieves may be lurking nearby, just waiting for an opportunity. Once the driver is out of the car and distracted at the gas pump, the thieves enter into the car and snatch purses and/or other valuables. For your protection, please be attentive to your surroundings and keep valuables out of sight or lock your vehicle while pumping gas. This vigilance should also be exercised while shopping, especially during the holiday season and anytime valuables are in your vehicle – even when parked in your driveway. Crimes can be reported to the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office at 301-475-8008.

**Trash and Recycling Pickup for  
Leonardtown Residents**

**Residential Trash:** Residential trash pickup is every Tuesday and Friday. Trash should be set out the night before or by 6 AM the morning of pick-up. Trash is accepted in 30-gallon cans with lids, cans on wheels, or totes issued by Goode Trash Removal. The next quarterly **bulk trash** pickup date is Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Bulk trash items will be collected with your regular trash and should be placed at the curb together on this day.



**Residential Recycling:** Residential recyclables will be collected as follows: Customers that live in Leonard’s Grant, Academy Hills and on (or adjacent to) Hollywood Road, will have their recyclables collected every Tuesday. Customers that live in Singletree, on Point Lookout Road, south or southwest of Point Lookout Road (i.e. Abell St., Lawrence Ave., Courthouse Drive, Breton Bay Drive, Fenwick Street, etc.) will have their recycling collected every Friday. To make room for more recyclables, break down cardboard boxes before placing in your recycling tote.

**Holiday Trash and Recycling:**

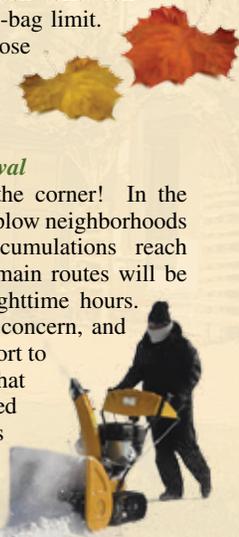
- Weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas:**
- No change: Trash will be collected on Tuesday and Friday.
  - No change: Recyclables will be collected on Tuesday or Friday, as scheduled for your neighborhood.
- Week of New Year’s:**
- Trash will be collected on Tuesday and Saturday.
  - Recyclables will be collected on Tuesday or Saturday, as scheduled for your neighborhood.

**Fall Leaf Pick-Up**

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**

Winter is just around the corner! In the event of snow, the Town will plow neighborhoods and side streets when accumulations reach over two inches (2”) while main routes will be kept plowed through the nighttime hours. Citizen safety is our utmost concern, and the Town will make every effort to ensure the quality service that our residents are accustomed to while retaining our efforts to trim snow removal costs.



## NOT MISSING *(Continued from Cover)*

A squadron history recounts his last mission. On June 6, 1944 the squadron divided into two groups to attack both Heho and Meiktila. Maj. Verl D. Luehring, the squadron commander, led one group of eleven aircraft and his executive officer, Capt. William Broadfoot, led the second group of seven aircraft. Captain Broadfoot, known informally as "B-Foot", described the action after both enemy fields had been attacked: "At the western edge of the Burma Valley we were jumped from above by many Oscars and Zeros. We had some ammunition but not enough gas to fight. The total effort was to shake them off and go home. 1st Lt. Goodrich was shot down at this time. When he was finally clear and headed over the mountains, Capt. W.F. Duke radioed that he was missing his wingman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. W.G. Baumeister Jr., that he had sufficient gas, he was going to make a circle back to make sure that Baumeister wasn't in trouble. Baumeister returned to base ok but Duke didn't."



After the war, Hampton Boggs, a member of the 459<sup>th</sup>, was sent on an intelligence hop to various Japanese bases with the aid of an interpreter. Boggs discovered that when Captain Duke had

gone back to look for his wingman he had been jumped by a flight of Zeros that was waiting for just such an opportunity. Duke had surprised the Japanese pilots by turning into them and downing three Zeros before he went to his death.

A squadron history referred to Captain Walter Francis Duke as the "Dragon with the sharpest claws. Before he failed to return to base, 22-year old Duke destroyed 10 Japanese planes in the air and nine on the ground to become the India – Burma Theater's leading ace. In addition he probably destroyed or damaged nine other enemy planes." On June 6 he accounted for three more.

During his short life and career Captain Walter Francis Duke earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the American Defense Medal, the American Campaign Medal, Asia/Pacific Area Service Medal, the Canadian War Medal and the British Burma Star. His unit received two distinguished unit citations, one for defending an oil refinery at Assam India on March 27, 1944 and the other for destroying 119 enemy aircraft between March 11 and May 19, 1944.



For the past 68 years (1944-2012) Captain Duke, shot down over the jungles of Burma, has been missing in action. This past year, 2012, his family was notified that his plane and remains had been found. At some time in the future he will be returned home and laid to rest with his family members and ancestors at the old St. Aloysius Cemetery off Cemetery Road in Leonardtown. Welcome home and peace.

**Acknowledgement:** This article is a condensed version of "Not Missing" written by Alfred F. Gough of Leonardtown and published in the Spring 2013 edition of the *Chronicles of St. Mary's*, a quarterly periodical of the St. Mary's County Historical Society. To read "Not Missing" in its entirety with additional photos, contact Susan Wolfe, Director of the St. Mary's County Historical Society by email at [smchsdirector@md.metrocast.net](mailto:smchsdirector@md.metrocast.net) or by calling 301-475-2467.

Be sure to inquire about membership in the St. Mary's County Historical Society! The Society is a 501C-3 non-profit organization founded in 1952 to preserve and chronicle the County's rich heritage, and always welcomes and encourages new members. As a member of the Society, you will be supporting the collection and archiving of St. Mary's County History. Member benefits include 10% off bookstore items, access to the Research Center, notice of dinners and lectures, and free queries in, and a free subscription to the *Chronicles of St. Mary's*. Volunteers are also welcomed!

## HONORING DUKE IN MANY WAYS ...

During the February 11, 2013 Leonardtown Council meeting, former Mayor Chip Norris and local historian Al Gough presented a slide presentation on Captain Duke. Subsequently, Chip Forbes of C. Forbes, Inc. and Pete Wigginton presented a beautifully framed and signed print of the U. S. National World War II Memorial in Washington DC for display in the Town Hall. Contained within the frame is the Captain Duke commemorative coin showing both the front and back of the coin. The Captain Walter Francis Duke USAAF coin is now available for purchase (\$13.50 each) at the Town Office. To watch the documentary video on Captain Duke, visit [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com).

Leonardtown's new elementary school, slated for opening in 2015, will be named the Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School in his honor. B. Kennedy Abell of Leonardtown proposed the name, and it was selected at the April 21, 2013 meeting of the St. Mary's

County Board of Education. The new eco-friendly, energy-efficient building will house over 600 students on a 9.5 acre site in Leonardtown off Maryland Route 245 (Hollywood Road) just north of the Leonardtown proper.

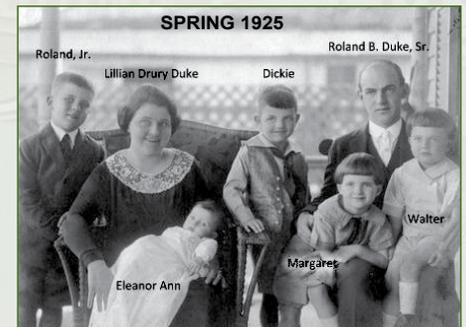
The public is invited to see the showcase of medals, awards, replicas and decorations attributed to Captain Walter Francis Duke currently housed at the St. Mary's County Historical Society in historic Tudor Hall Mansion. Prior to its temporary home at the Historical Society, the showcase was displayed at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport. In just a few years, the showcase will move once again to its new, permanent home in Leonardtown – the Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School.



On Tuesday, October 8, 2013, members of Captain Duke's family participated in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School "Where Children Soar" and will learn to become a part of something bigger than themselves.



Angela Hicks and Eleanor Fearn (sisters of Walter Duke) are joined by Delegates Johnny Wood and Anthony O'Donnell around the school seal designed by C. Forbes, Inc. The seal will be placed in the entryway of the new Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School.



In this Duke family photo, Walter is a 4-year old boy. His sister Eleanor Fearn recalled that "Growing up, Walter loved whatever it was he did, especially playing the violin and all kinds of sports, especially football. He was so unassuming and quiet, not out front, and he would be shocked at all this commotion over him – he would be amazed."



# Town Tidbits

## Changes at the Maryland Antique Center

Many of our readers will recall that the summer issue of the Leonardtown Beacon newsletter featured "The Shops at the Maryland Antiques Center" then owned by Dot Sparling. A few changes ensued over the summer when Bob Green and Mark Cord purchased the property and its buildings. The new owners are excited and have a vision of upholding the shopping outlet for antiques and gifts. Joyce Donaldson, along with the assistance of her daughter Teresa Holcombe, is now the owner/manager of the Maryland Antique Center. Joyce is an established antiques dealer in the county and former owner of Breton House Antiques. While the Center is open for



business, a period of transition is expected over the next few months for both tenants and customers. The Maryland Antique Center at 26005 Point

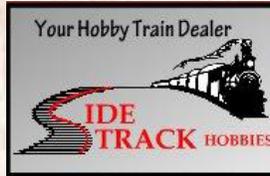
Lookout Road is open 7 days a week. All are invited to a Holiday Open House with seasonal music and refreshments on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM-5 PM. For more information check [marylandantiquecenter.com](http://marylandantiquecenter.com) or call 301-690-2074.

## G & H Jewelers Returns to Leonardtown

In 1965, G & H Jewelers began as Harris Jewelers in downtown Leonardtown. Over the years, its popularity necessitated a need for larger space, and in 1995 the business moved to its current location in California, MD. Now, this successful, independent, family-owned business makes its way back to Leonardtown, opening a second showroom within the recently renovated Maryland Antique Center. The new showroom opens in November, and a special holiday open house is planned for December 14<sup>th</sup>. Owners Frank and Joan Harris are anxious to meet you and are excited to bring full service jewelry sales and repair to Leonardtown. Check [GandH.net](http://GandH.net) for more information.

## SideTrack Hobbies

Model trains are a popular tradition during the holidays, and SideTrack Hobbies in Leonardtown carries a full line of model trains and train components, as well as model airplanes and helicopters too. SideTrack Hobbies, operated by Al and Libby Rudman, is located at 25470 Point Lookout Road in the Breton Marketplace Center. For more details, visit [sidetrackhobbies.com](http://sidetrackhobbies.com) or call 301-475-5381.



## Toys for Tots

Winegardner Motor Company in downtown Leonardtown is a collection site for **Toys for Tots** and is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages from November 11<sup>th</sup> through December 19<sup>th</sup>.



The toys will be picked up by representatives of the U. S. Marine

Corps Reserve and be distributed as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in our community. Visit [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org) to learn more about the Toys for Tots program.

## Food and Toy Drive

Donations of canned food items, grocery store gift cards and new, unwrapped toys can be brought to Kevin's Corner Kafe starting November 1<sup>st</sup> through Christmas Eve. Donated items will be distributed to needy families in St. Mary's County just in time for Christmas!

Kevin's is located at 41565 Park Avenue, just off the Town Square. 301-997-1260.



## Community Christmas Dinner

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Aloysius Church invite all to a free Christmas Dinner and to share the spirit of Christmas with others on Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM-6 PM at Father Andrew White School. For more information, to volunteer, or to request a dinner to be delivered to the homebound in our community, please call 301-481-2942 before Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Keepsakes of Leonardtown's History

An excerpt from the book *A Most Convenient Place* by Leonardtown native and author, Aleck Loker recalls the British invasion on Leonardtown during the War of 1812: "On July 19, 1814, (Admiral Sir George) Cockburn (of the British fleet) sailed into Breton Bay. Dividing his force of about 1,500 marines into three companies, they marched on the town and plantations to the east and west." Contact the Town office for your copy of *A Most Convenient Place* to read more about this raid and other historical narratives of Leonardtown's history (1650-1950).



Leonardtwn's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook boasts hometown and family recipe favorites such as crab dip, crab soup, crab imperial, oyster stew, fried oysters, Southern Maryland stuffed ham, sweet potato casserole, carrot cake, holiday molasses cookies, eggnog and more. With its fine collection of over 300 recipes submitted by many Leonardtown residents and friends, this cookbook is a must have!



You may also like a copy of a scenic print that depicts the Town between 1850-1960.

To obtain a copy of these Leonardtown keepsakes for yourself or to give as a gift, contact the Town office.

# Leonardtwn BEACON

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