

# 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 Leonardtown*

#### SEPTEMBER 18

Taste of St. Mary's  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

#### SEPTEMBER 22-25

St. Mary's County Fair  
*SM County Fairgrounds*

#### OCTOBER 1

St. Aloysius Friends of the Poor Walk  
*Leonardtowntown Streets*

#### OCTOBER 9

Antique Tractor & Truck Parade  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

#### OCTOBER 15-16

St. Mary's County Oyster Festival  
*SM County Fairgrounds*

#### OCTOBER 22

St. Mary's Ryken 5K Walk/Run  
*Leonardtowntown Streets*

#### OCTOBER 22

Trick-or-Treat on the Square  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

#### OCTOBER 29

The Blues Block Party on the Square  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

#### NOVEMBER 6

National Youth 5K  
*Leonardtowntown Wharf*

#### NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Parade  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

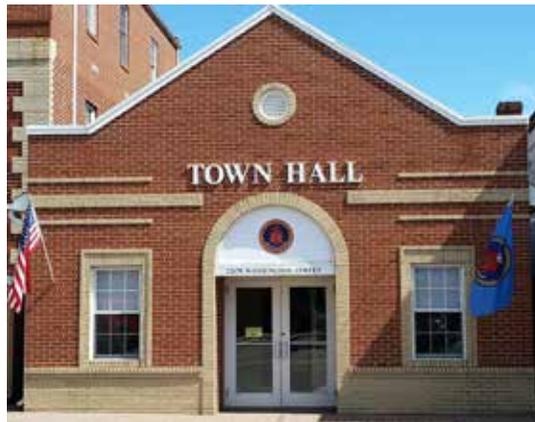
#### NOVEMBER 25

Christmas on the Square,  
Annual Tree Lighting  
& LVRS Christmas Festival  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

#### DECEMBER 10

Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square  
*Leonardtowntown Square*

## Leonardtowntown Residents Get a New Town Hall



On Saturday, August 20th the Leonardtown Town Hall moved to its new home at 22670 Washington Street. For the last decade the offices were located in The Proffitt Building, where the Town owned two office condominiums and rented a third. This new building is now owned by the Town in its entirety. The building had a configuration of offices that was a perfect fit with plenty of growing room. The Commissioners plan to sell the condos on Courthouse Drive in the coming months. Currently the public meetings will be held on the first floor, with the hope of adding an elevator in the future and then holding meetings in the wide open space on the second



*Leonardtowntown Super Market*

floor. The purchase of this building was a sound investment for the Town for many years to come and also repurposed a building that had been vacant for several years.

This building was once the home of the Leonardtown Supermarket and was constructed between the 1910s and 1920s by Aloysius F. and Sarah M. King. The King family purchased the tract as well as the "Old Tavern" or "Beacon Building" in 1894 from Leo Wathen at a public auction. A few years after the purchase, they erected the gable front, concrete block commercial building between the old First National Bank of St.

Mary's building (now demolished) to the north and the "Beacon Building" (now demolished) to the south. As owners of the St. Mary's Beacon, a local newspaper, as well as the Leonardtown Supermarket, the King family had a diversified commercial interest in Leonardtown.

The store was initially known as the "A & P"—a local branch of one of the first chain supermarkets that began in America. Ironically, the Leonardtown Supermarket closed its doors around 1990, a victim of larger chain supermarkets such as Food Lion and Super Fresh located at "strip developments" on the periphery of town.

In the 1950s, the market was purchased by Richard L. Curry and John A. Joseph, who later added a new brick storefront to the west side of the building. Another frame addition was added to the east side of the building sometime in the 1950s or 1960s. The First National Bank of St. Mary's bought the building to use as additional office space and added an entrance to the original bank through the connecting wall. The First National Bank dedicated the building to the former President of the bank, John (Jack) Candela and the building became known as the Candela Building.

Rainbow Construction purchased the PNC Bank building and the Candela building in early 2016 and the connection between the two buildings was dismantled. The Commissioners of Leonardtown then purchased the building from Rainbow Construction this summer and began transforming the building into the new Leonardtown Town Hall.

Continuing to repurpose these historic buildings is imperative to keeping the downtown business district thriving. Our old buildings are reminders of Leonardtown's cultural history. The town needs its old buildings to maintain a sense of permanency and heritage. We can never be certain what will be valued in the future, once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever.

Ask what is historic and worth saving and you will get a different answer from each person. The National Trust for Historic Preservation states that "historic" means old and still worth the trouble. Historic buildings are a part of a community's history and a tangible reminder of its past, and though it might surprise some people, old buildings can offer opportunities for Leonardtown's future too. They make our town unique in St. Mary's County. It is one of the few places that, when you come to our town

For more information on these events check out our website [leonardtowntown.somd.com](http://leonardtowntown.somd.com) You can also follow Leonardtown events on Facebook.com/ [TownofLeonardtowntown](https://www.facebook.com/TownofLeonardtowntown)



## Mayor's Message

Take a look around town and you will quickly notice a lot of construction and new businesses opening. It is quite rewarding to see activity and not vacant buildings as so many other small towns are experiencing. On July 7th, I had the pleasure of participating in the ribbon cutting for the new Dunkin Donuts location on Washington Street. Many people were anxious for the new store to open, but there were also some who asked why we would bring a chain store into town. Actually the franchise is owned by a great local entrepreneur, Maria Icaza. The Leonardtown store is Maria's third location and she is a business owner who gives a lot back to her community. In actuality chain stores have a long history in downtown Leonardtown.

Over the years Ben Franklin, Western Auto, Hardees, CVS Pharmacy and A&P Grocery Store have all had a home on Leonardtown Square. Controlling the scale and magnitude of the chain stores is very important to keeping the small town charm alive and well in Leonardtown for many years to come. We will continue to protect our locally owned businesses, with restrictions on big box stores, but we will also embrace the chain stores that are in keeping with the charm of our town.

*Dan Burris*

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

**Water Quality Report**  
Annual Drinking Water  
Quality Report  
[www.leonardtown.somd.com/government/CCRReport-current.pdf](http://www.leonardtown.somd.com/government/CCRReport-current.pdf)



## Celebrate Leonardtown "First Fridays"



Mark your calendars now for the October 7th Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Friday featuring the ever-popular Bootleggers live music on the Square, the Uplifting Designs Bra Decorating Contest and pink themed fundraising activities throughout the Square. Special thanks to the St. Mary's County Arts Council for contributing the special programming during Fall First Fridays!

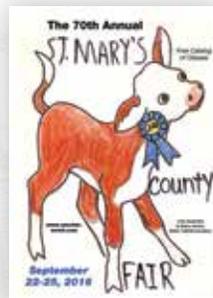
Visit [leonardtownfirstfridays.com](http://leonardtownfirstfridays.com) often to see First Friday highlights and specials!

## A Taste of St. Mary's

A Taste of St. Mary's returns to Leonardtown Square on Sunday, September 18th from Noon - 4:30 PM. Sample award-winning specialties from area restaurants and caterers. Tastings of soups, entrees, desserts - even beer and wine - are available from only \$1-\$5 each. Try as many as you like and be sure to vote for your favorites! Enjoy music and family entertainment, too.



For more information, visit the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce at [smcchamber.com](http://smcchamber.com) or call 301-737-3001.



## St. Mary's County Fair

There's fun for everyone at the 70th Annual St. Mary's County Fair, Thursday, September 22nd thru Sunday, September 25th at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. The Fair Parade on Saturday starts at 10:30 AM. For more information, pick up the 2016 Fair Catalog at local libraries or visit [smcfair.somd.com](http://smcfair.somd.com).

## Walk a Mile in My Shoes

The 9th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be held on Saturday, October



1st at 9 AM at Father Andrew White School. Call Patty Belanger at 301-904-7990 or visit [svdpusa.net/fop](http://svdpusa.net/fop) to register or make a pledge. Same day registration begins at 7:30 AM. Rain or Shine.

## Antique Tractor & Truck Parade



The 7th Annual Antique Tractor & Truck Parade will be held in the Leonardtown Square on Sunday, October 9th at 1 PM. Sponsored by The Southern Maryland Antique Power Association, proceeds from the event and related raffles benefit the St. Mary's County Christmas in April Foundation. For details or to enter a tractor or truck in the parade, call 240-538-3687.



## St. Mary's County Oyster Festival

The 50th Annual St. Mary's County Oyster Festival will be held at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown on Saturday, October 15th from 10 AM-6 PM and Sunday, October 16th from 11 AM-6 PM; \$7 admission; children under 12 free. Free parking. This event is sponsored by the Lexington Park Rotary Club and is the proud host of the exciting U. S. National Oyster Shucking Championship and National Oyster Cook Off. For more information, visit [usoysterfest.com](http://usoysterfest.com) or call 301-863-5015.

## Trick-or-Treat Fun on the Square

There's plenty of safe Halloween fun for kids in the Leonardtown Square on Saturday, October 22nd - please note the new time from 3 PM-5 PM. Kids can dress up as their favorite character and trick-or-treat at merchants all around the Square. Make sure to bring a goodie bag to collect your treats! Fido and Fluffy can also participate in the pet costume contest sponsored by SMAWL and artists from Wine & Design Art Buzz Kids and members of local non-profit groups will also be on the Square providing free face painting and fall crafts. After you're done, stay for dinner at one of our local restaurants!



## The Blues Block Party on the Square

After many years away, the Blue Angels are returning to St. Mary's County and the Naval Air Station Patuxent River's Air Show on Saturday and Sunday, October 29th - 30th. To help welcome them, everyone is invited to celebrate in the Square with a good old-fashioned neighborhood block party meet & greet on Saturday evening, October 29th from 7 - 10 PM. In the midst of the music, games, children's activities and glow-in-the-dark goodies in the square, the Blue Angels and other air show performers will be available for autographs and pictures throughout the evening. Updates and details will be posted to the Town Facebook page and website.



# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Shockingly, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has advised that a pedestrian is injured every seven minutes somewhere in the U.S. while, tragically, a pedestrian is killed every two hours! In 2013, there were 4,735 pedestrians killed and an estimated 66,000 injured in the United States alone.

Let's make sure those numbers don't include anyone from Leonardtown. Here's how you can help:

1. Don't be a distracted driver! Drive the speed limit/don't speed. Pay attention and look for pedestrians, especially at intersections and for cars turning right on red.
2. Don't be a distracted pedestrian either! Many walkers are listening to music, looking at their cell phones, conversing with friends or otherwise not paying attention to the traffic around them. Pedestrians also need to take responsibility!

3. When walking at night, wear light colored clothing or something reflective like a safety vest. Don't wear dark clothing, making it almost impossible for drivers to see you until too late.

4. Pedestrians have the right-of-way, but that doesn't mean not looking or listening for cars before walking into the street. Just because you have the right-of-way doesn't mean you're going to get it! You can't count on drivers always being respectful of the law.

Leonardtown is doing its part to help. Over the last couple of months we have added pedestrian signage at many intersections around town and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Deputies continue to monitor automobile speed around the town. Drive the speed limit, stay alert, and keep Leonardtown residents safe!

*(Article taken in part from the Traffic Group, Inc. blog post)*

**Mayor**  
Daniel W. Burris

**Town Council**  
Leslie E. Roberts, *Vice President*  
Thomas "Tom" M. Combs  
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*  
Jada Stuckert, *Human Resources and Planning & Zoning Assistant*  
Donna Page, *Receptionist*  
Maria Fleming, *PR & Event Coordinator*  
Tony Wheatley, *Capital Project Coordinator*  
DeAnn Adler, *Grants Administrator & Beacon Editor*  
Cpl. Peg Smolarsky, *Town Deputy*

**Utilities Staff**  
John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*  
Timmy Lacey, *Operator*  
Joe Bucior, *Operator*  
Kyle Shepherd, *Operator*  
Greg Owen, *Operator*

**Planning & Zoning Board Members**  
Jean Moulds, *Chair*  
John "Jack" Candela  
Heather Earhart  
Christy Hollander  
Laura Schultz  
Tyler Alt - *Alternate*

**Board of Appeals**  
Dr. Herbert Winnik, *Chair*  
Robert "Bob" Wentworth  
Darren Meyer  
Jeff Brown  
Shawn Moses

### Meetings

**Town Council -**  
2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.

**Planning & Zoning Commission -**  
3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19.

**Contact the Town:**  
Commissioners of Leonardtown  
22670 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 1  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Phone: 301-475-9791  
Fax: 301-475-5350

E-Mail: Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net  
Website: Leonardtown.somd.com

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

November 11	Veteran's Day
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
November 25	Day after Thanksgiving
December 26	Day after Christmas
January 2	Day after New Years
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 20	Presidents' Day

## 21st Annual Hospice Run



On April 9th, the 21st Annual Run and Fun Walk for Hospice of St. Mary's took to the roads of Leonardtown. With a 5K Walk, a 5K Run and a 10K Run, this

event is one of the largest fundraisers for Hospice, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mark your calendar for the 2017 Run on April 8th, and visit [runforhospice.org](http://runforhospice.org) to see this year's photos and race results.

## Earth Day on the Square – And at the Wharf!

Earth Day on the Square 2016 hosted a variety of new additions including live music at the Wharf, waterman guided boat tours, pony rides, the new Living Green Demo Stage and the wildly popular Reptile World. The crowd spent Sunday, April 17th learning about wildlife and resource conservation as well as green living alternatives.



## 31st Annual Spring Fling Car Show



The Annual Spring Fling Car Show on Sunday, April 24th hosted 342 cars around Town, drawing about 3,000 spectators, and raising

almost \$15,000 for local non-profits, including veterans organizations, soup kitchens, the rescue squad, and Hospice of St. Mary's (who raised an additional \$2,300 in donations "at the door"). Thanks to the St. Mary's Rod & Classic Club for organizing this annual crowd pleasing event.

## Mock Council Meetings Teach Hands-On Civics and Economics

On February 29th and May 20th fourth grade students of Capt. Walter Francis Duke Elementary School and Leonardtown Elementary School conducted mock Town Council meetings with Mayor Burris guiding conversations about taxes, budget and spending Town money. This year's groups, along with the "Mayor" and "Council" decided to spend more money on Community and Economic Development.



## Life is Good in LG 5K and Fun Run

Thanks go to our Leonard's Grant neighbors for organizing the Life is Good in LG 5K.



The May 28th run was a fun, family-friendly event for all ages, and the proceeds directly benefit the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department. Great job, everyone!

## Cruising Southern Maryland for Vets



Cruising Southern Maryland for Vets chose Leonardtown as their "pit stop" for 2016. Half-way through the May 28th tri-county cruise, about 160 classic cars came to the square for lunch and a mini car show to the surprise of many residents and visitors. Proceeds from the event benefit Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and other veterans organizations.

## Annual Flag Day Celebration



St. Mary's County's 2016 Flag Day ceremony took place under abundant sunshine and comfortable June temperatures on the lawn at the Governmental Center in Leonardtown. Special thanks go to the Father Andrew White, S.J. School Rhythm Rejoicers, under the direction of Ms. Jody Cacko, who performed patriotic tunes. Color guards participating in the pass in review included the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Color Guard, NAS Patuxent River Color Guard, Father Andrew White Assembly #377 Knights of Columbus, Great Mills High School Navy Junior ROTC and Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy Color Guard. Commissioners of St. Mary's County as well as the Leonardtown Commissioners also took part in the ceremony, including Leonardtown Councilman Hayden Hammett's performance of the National Anthem.

## BTB Glam Day

A special Glam Event for Women was held on Fenwick Street on June 25th. BTB Coffee Bar and Speakeasy sponsored the day full of activities and giveaways for women. The event gave women an opportunity to shop, have a cocktail and nibble on chocolates! Quality Street and Heritage Chocolates provided a unique wine and chocolate tasting. Skape Salon set up outside, greeting women and giving them gift bags filled with wonderful products and prizes. Unique Boutique parked in front of BTB Coffee Bar so that women could try on clothes that had just arrived from market. North End Gallery provided the beautiful

handmade jewelry and scarves on display. Traditions of Loveville sold their very popular handbags and



jewelry and the participants came to relax inside the BTB Speakeasy where they could order from an elaborate mimosa and bloody mary bar for just \$2.50 a drink! It was a perfect glam day—beauty, wine, chocolate, shopping and cocktails!

## SMBC Regatta at the Wharf

July 29th - 31st was a "blast from the past" as the Southern Maryland Boat Club brought boat racing back to life in the waters of Breton Bay. Starting with a meet & greet and movie at the Wharf on Friday, the Regatta continued throughout the weekend, showcasing a variety of vintage boats running heats all day Saturday and Sunday.

## National Night Out

National Night Out with the Leonard's Freehold community in Leonardtown was held on Tuesday, August 2nd. This annual event provided games, food, children's activities, a fire truck hose down and a chance for neighbors to come together to strengthen community partnerships with police and first responders.

## Beach Party on the Square

New to the Beach Party this year, the Latrice Carr Music Group rocked the Square all night long on August 6th, while families enjoyed sand volleyball, the fire truck hose down, juggling and balloon twisting, a variety of food and kayak and SUP rides at the Wharf. Other activities in the Square included hula hooping, sack races, tug-of-war, pony rides, face painting, and the Annual Running of the Balls!

## Hall of Fame Ladies!



On August 4th, a surprise reception was held at the Leonardtown Volunteer fire Department for the two of Leonardtown's Ladies

Auxiliary Maryland State Fireman's Association Hall of Fame Inductees—Betty Mason Holley and Cecelia Holley. LAMSFA Past President Darby Byrd and LAMSFA President Barbara Sue Nelson officially inducted both women into the LAMSFA Hall of Fame in recognition of their hard work and support through the years. Both ladies received a long stemmed red rose, a HOF Framed Certificate, HOF Lapel Pin and HOF Membership Card. Congratulations ladies!

# Highlights

## Community Foundation of Southern Maryland

The Community Foundation of Southern Maryland wants you to know that you can



receive a 25% State Tax Credit through Endow Maryland when you give to or establish your own endowment. #yourlegacy. For more information: [cfsomd.org/endowMD.html](http://cfsomd.org/endowMD.html), or call 240-670-4483 or email: [donorservices@cfsomd.org](mailto:donorservices@cfsomd.org).

## St. Mary's Ryken Holds Fall Open House Events

St. Mary's Ryken invites those interested to join them for: Coffee with the Administrators, Admissions Presentation, Student-Led Campus Tours, Panel Discussion with Admissions Director, Dean of Academics, Athletic Director, Campus Minister, Fine Arts Department Chair and the Counseling Director. These events will be held on Monday, October 10th at 8:30 AM with an open house and campus tours while school is in session and also on Sunday, November 20th at 12 PM. Location: St. Mary's Ryken Campus, 22600 Camp Calvert Road, Leonardtown, Maryland at Romuald Hall on the lower campus. For more information, and to RSVP, please call 301-373-4184.

## St. Mary's Ryken 5K & Fun Run

Join SMR on October 22nd at 8:30 AM for a day of fitness & fun for the whole family as it hosts the 1st annual SMR 5K and Family Fun Run! Registration is \$25 until 10/1/16 and \$30 thereafter. SMR Staff/Faculty/Student discounts available. Kids 10 and under can register for a FREE 500 meter pumpkin dash. T-shirts will be included with early registrations. Runners, walkers and sideline supporters can find all necessary information online at [www.smrhs.org/5K](http://www.smrhs.org/5K). Music, refreshments, games and family fun will be a part of the day. Awards will be given for top qualifiers of the 5K run and prizes awarded for kids 500 meter pumpkin dash. Don't miss out! Register today! [www.smrhs.org/5K](http://www.smrhs.org/5K)

## Maison Renouvele Construction Comes to Leonardtown

Maya Angelou once wrote "the ache for home lives in all of us." A home is more than just a place to lay your head at the end of the day. It is where we relax with friends, raise our families, and share special moments, and each home has those memories living within them. As a retired CEO of an Alexandria Virginia-based government contracting company, Gerrie L'Heureux felt that ache. She had a passion for renewing homes. She retired from the fast paced business world and focused on family - but not just her own. As owner and operator of Maison Renouvele, she renovated homes in Michigan, and Florida, helping families find affordable yet distinctive homes where they could build their

lives. She took pride in uncovering the "soul" of these homes, reclaiming the unique details that turn houses into homes.

Teaming up with Kenny Smythers - owner of MD Custom Construction, and experienced home builder Bill Bowen, Gerrie is bringing her care and expertise to Southern Maryland. With the help of her son RJ and daughter-in-law Jessica, Gerrie finds prospective properties, re-designs, and completely renovates homes from the ground up. Her first property in Leonardtown on Longmore St. sold immediately after going on the market. The HGTV-esque project features opulent fixtures, a spaciouly re-designed floor plan, and attention to detail in every aspect. With two more projects currently in the works in Leonardtown (on Lawrence Ave and another to be disclosed later), Maison Renouvele endeavors to re-new homes for families to create new memories.



*Pictured in front of the Lawrence Ave. renovation; Daughter-In-Law Jessica and Granddaughter Zelda, Gerrie and Kenny Smythers with his crew.*

## Craft Guild Shop's 40 year Anniversary!

The Craft Guild Shop celebrated its 40 year anniversary with a celebration held on September 10th. Special events were held throughout the day, including local artists on site performing demos and a special cake-cutting session and refreshments.

## Davis Office Park Opens Third Building



Davis Office Park, LLC is pleased to announce the completion of Building #3 in the Davis Professional Park. The new building has four tenant suites. Davis Office Park, LLC would like to welcome Anne Arundel Dermatology, Inc. to their new location in the Davis Professional Office Park, 23503 Hollywood Road, Suite #102. The Kidney Care Center, Inc./Home Dialysis Services, Inc. anticipates opening their new office in Suite #104 in September 2016. Welcome to Leonardtown!

## Leonardtown Business Association News

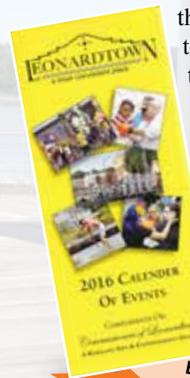
For more than 15 years, the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA) has served the business community of Leonardtown. Designed to provide an opportunity for networking, collaboration, and a voice for business, the LBA has worked closely with the elected town leadership to create a thriving downtown.

In July, LBA president Daniel Norris stepped down after 8 years of service. The LBA elected Joe Orlando as President and Ellen Lewis as Vice President. Joe and Ellen have owned successful businesses in town for more than 12 years, and have worked with the LBA for some time as well. Mr. Orlando, owner of Fenwick Street Used Books and Music, has served as LBA Vice President for 9 years, and has been active on the Marketing Committee, Small Business Saturday Committee, and the First Friday Committee. Ms. Lewis, owner of Crazy for Ewe Yarns, has chaired the First Friday committee since 2014 and has supported Small Business Saturday, and the Marketing Committee. New to the LBA Executive board is Marketing Committee Chair, Nell Elder. A professional artist and successful graphic designer, Ms. Elder is Executive Director of the St. Mary's Arts Council and brings a wealth of experience to the Board.



*Left to right: Nell Elder, Joe Orlando, Ellen Lewis*

Mr. Orlando and the LBA Executive board hope to build greater openness, transparency and communication among the members, the town leadership, and the community. The LBA Board shares the vision of a bustling downtown with more businesses, greater signage, and continued success at the numerous events that the community looks forward to each year. Please feel free to contact the LBA Executive Board with your thoughts and suggestions at: [joe.orlando@theLBA.org](mailto:joe.orlando@theLBA.org).



**Leonardtown's 2016 Calendar of Events Brochures are now available at various Leonardtown businesses and the Town Office. You can also download a copy from our website [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com)**





### Call For Artists!

The Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment District and the St. Mary's County Arts Council are looking for proposals for a permanent exterior Public Art Project to be designed and installed in Leonardtown. The budget for this project is up to \$10,000. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should visit [www.stmarysartscouncil.com](http://www.stmarysartscouncil.com) for more information. The deadline for submission is Monday, September 26, 2016. Please email Nell Elder at [info@smcart.org](mailto:info@smcart.org) or call 240-687-5418 if you have any questions.

### Calling all Artists & Teachers!



Be a part of Leonardtown's Arts & Entertainment District! Are you looking for studio space or a place to hold classes or

workshops? The Leonardtown Arts Center has space available at an affordable price. Call Nell Elder at 240-687-5418 or email [info@smcart.org](mailto:info@smcart.org) for more information.

### Downtown Tunes

The 2016 Downtown Tunes series had its last concert on Saturday, August 27th in the Town Square with country artist Wesley Spangler. The series is organized and hosted by James LePore and the Leonardtown Business Association.

### Minding Your Business

On April 28th, the Leonardtown A&E District Committee, the St. Mary's County Arts Council, PNC Bank,



Maryland Citizens for the Arts, and Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts hosted an informative legal seminar "Mind Your Business" at the College of Southern Maryland. Intended for local and regional artists, topics included insurance for artistic works, copyright law, business law, and arts advocacy.

# 6

Leonardtwn Beacon

### Southern Maryland Youth Orchestra and Choir

The Southern Maryland Youth Orchestra and Choir has been a welcome addition to Leonardtown events, playing at both the Leonardtown Arts Center for March Youth Arts First Friday and at the Wharf for Earth Day. But the group and its ensembles – comprised of youth from the tri-county area - really showed off their musical maturity at a concert at the Leonardtown Wharf Park on Saturday, June 10th with a program from classical to contemporary music and everything in between!



### US Navy Band Commodores

With a non-stop program of classical hits and a fantastic soloist or two, the Commodores U.S. Navy Jazz Band left the crowd in the square mesmerized on June 17th. The Commissioners of Leonardtown appreciate all of the talented military musicians who performed such a wonderful and entertaining evening of music. We look forward to having other military ensembles come to Leonardtown in the near future.

### Cedar Lane Artists Prepare for Art Gallery Project

Art is alive and well at Cedar Lane Senior Living Community and the artists will be showcasing their favorites. Deanne Daugherty, the new Director of Sales and Marketing explains, "When I came on board I was taken with the enthusiasm of our Art Club and thought we had the perfect space to display their work." It turns out that an Art Gallery has been part of the vision for the community. In the coming weeks the first gallery exhibit will be complete. They hope the Southern Maryland Community will visit the gallery. The long standing Senior Living Community hopes that continual displays will encourage more artists to proudly show their work. Cedar Lane Outreach Coordinator VerNitta Tyson says the goal is for Cedar Lane to partner with artists from all walks of life – such as the local public schools and institutions of higher education, community organizations and clubs, and the business sector to Support the Arts in Southern Maryland. Tyson says "We hope the art community will see the value of bringing their form of beauty to the many that live and visit Cedar Lane Senior Living Community every day.



Kate Farr; an active member of the Art Club, led by volunteer artist Mary Ada Candela

### North End Gallery Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary!

The artists of North End Gallery are proud to celebrate the gallery's 30th anniversary. Observance of this milestone on September 2nd included new works of art and special memories of the past 30 years. The celebration also included a dedication of a gallery section to the memory of late member artist, Judith Coville Conrad. An exceptional painter and weaver, Conrad was an extraordinary leader, serving as treasurer and president at various times during her tenure with North End. As a generous landlord, Conrad enabled North End Gallery's survival and success.



square, surrounded by historic brick buildings you know you have arrived and are not just “passing through” on your way to somewhere else—you have a sense of place.

Old buildings have intrinsic value—they may be made with higher-quality materials or better building standards. When you tear down an old building, you never know what’s being destroyed. Underneath layers of stucco, drywall and ugly drop ceilings may lay hidden beautiful wood floors or tin ceilings, brick walls or other unique architectural features that have been forgotten.

That is why we strive to maintain and restore Leonardtown’s oldest buildings and encourage owners to retrofit and reuse the existing structures, unless they are so deteriorated that they can’t be saved. Some of our oldest buildings around town are getting new lives this year. The Reynold’s Pharmacy building will soon be a coffee and ice cream shop called Panda Village, in addition to two newly renovated apartments that will be going in upstairs. The Corner Critter’s Pet Shop building, now called the Seymour Town Building, houses five new luxury apartments and will soon have a restaurant on the ground floor. The PNC Bank Building, empty for several years now, will have a new life as retail shops on the ground floor and seven new luxury apartments on the second and third stories. The old Bell Motor Used Car Building and its parking lot are now the Washington Street Retail Complex, housing a Dunkin Donuts, Urban BBQ restaurant, REMAX Real Estate, State Farm office and Jessie’s Kitchen restaurant.



First National Bank and Hotel St. Mary’s

Many of our old buildings are being retrofitted and some builders are adding apartments above the new retail shops or restaurants. This is a wonderful benefit to our downtown area and a recent trend in many cities and towns. Multi-use buildings, with apartments above, are convenient and with walkable access for residents to restaurants, bars, shopping and entertainment it is a compelling reason for this new trend, another is that many seniors and millennials don’t want the maintenance of a

yard and prefer the simplicity of a condo or apartment. It also benefits Leonardtown to have residents with “eyes on the street” after hours, when the shops and restaurants are closed, to deter crime.



Duke Building and DeWaal’s Store

When you speak of new lives for historic properties in Leonardtown, several others around the downtown area should be mentioned. Although the historic Circuit Courthouse, built first in 1710, has been housed on the same plot of land and expanded and rebuilt several times because of fires, it has never changed use. However, many other former buildings in downtown Leonardtown have been transformed many times through the years. The Good Earth location was previously the Town Hall and prior to that the Leonardtown Post Office. Of course The Rex was previously Nook and Monks restaurant

and formerly a movie theatre. Ye Olde Town Café was home to St. Mary’s Pharmacy which eventually became CVS Pharmacy. The current location of the Post Office was a Ben Franklin store for many years. The home of The Hair Company was formerly St. Mary’s County’s Planning and Zoning offices and many years ago was also a movie theatre. And who could forget that the iconic Duke Building, built in the 1920’s, was home over the years to a bowling alley, movie theatre, restaurant, grocery store, auto showroom and Greyhound bus depot. Most recently the Duke Building housed the Café des Artistes French restaurant for over 15 years and is today being transformed to La Rive Breton Restaurant.



The “New” Theatre Building

For those new to the town there is much to discover and learn about the history of Leonardtown. You are encouraged to explore the traces of this history that can be found throughout its landscape and in its commercial buildings, churches and residences.

One great place to start is by talking to one of the many Leonardtown longtime residents, most of whom have great memories of the area, or by reading Aleck Loker’s book A Most Convenient Place. However you choose to learn about Leonardtown, we hope that we have piqued your curiosity and you will delve into the history of this 300+ year old town we are so proud of!

*(Information taken from Maryland Historical Sites Inventory #SM-551, completed 10/10/1997)*

## Deputy’s Corner

Have you ever wondered about the security of your residence? The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office has trained officers to conduct residential security surveys. These security surveys are at no cost to the homeowner. A residential security survey takes about an hour and a half and includes crime prevention and safety tips to help homeowners reduce opportunities for criminal activity around their home. The survey points out common security weaknesses and shows practical ways to correct them. Each survey includes a walk-through of the residence

If you live in the Leonardtown area and are interested in having a security survey of your residence, please contact Cpl. Smolarsky #126 at 301-475-4200 ext. \*1960, or email her at [margaret.smolarsky@stmarysmd.com](mailto:margaret.smolarsky@stmarysmd.com) to schedule an appointment.



# Leonardtown’s Fair Housing Policy

Because we cannot always count on citizen goodwill, our country has civil rights laws to guide the actions of private and public housing providers. The Fair Housing Act of 1988 forbids discrimination and requires that state and local governments further fair housing practices.

The Town of Leonardtown strives to promote and encourage fair housing choices for all of its residents without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, familial status, marital status, age or religion. The administrative

practices, policies and laws of the Town will attempt to prohibit: discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, discrimination in housing financing, discrimination in providing brokerage services, and unlawful intimidation regarding housing choices. We will accept complaints from any citizen that feels that they have been discriminated against, related to their housing choice. The Town administration will make an initial investigation and refer the complaint to the state or the federal housing departments.



# Town News

## Trash and Recycling Information

Residential Trash and Residential Recycling containers should be set out the night before or by 6 AM the morning of pick-up. Items are accepted in 30-gallon cans with lids, cans on wheels, or totes issued by Affordable Refuse and Recycling, Inc. Whenever possible, please break down cardboard boxes before placing in your recycling tote.



Trash is collected on a cycle of Monday and Thursday, or Tuesday and Friday, depending on your street. Recycling is picked up on Wednesdays on all streets. Leonardtown residents needing to check their pickup day for trash pickup should visit the Leonardtown website at [leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com). If you have any questions about your trash service, billing, to schedule an extra pickup or to report a missed pick up, please call the Town Office at 301-475-9791 and ask for Jackie Post. Please do not call the trash company directly.

## Bulk Trash Pickup

Bulk trash pickup always falls on the first Thursday or Friday (depending on your regular pickup day) of March, June, September and December. So the next quarterly bulk trash pickup dates will be December 1st or 2nd.

## Holiday Pickup

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 24th, so for that week trash pickup scheduled for Thursday will slide forward to Friday and Friday will slide forward to Saturday. Recyclables will still be picked up on Wednesday.

## We've Moved!

The Leonardtown Town Hall has a new home. We are now located at 22670 Washington Street just behind the former PNC Bank building and across from Winegardner Chevrolet. This new location is a wise investment financially for the town residents and gives us the opportunity for growing room for many years to come. Stop by for a visit!

## Leonardtown Receives Waterway Improvement Grant

The long awaited pier and transient boat slips at the Wharf are now becoming a reality. Leonardtown is the recipient of a Dept. of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Grant for \$99,500 to build a pier and boat slips along the waterfront at Leonardtown Wharf. Planning for the project is underway in hopes to be under construction in 2017.



Leonardtown Mayor, Town Council, and Staff

## St Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Award

Our own Town Administrator, Laschelle McKay, received the Chamber's Public Servant of the Year Award at their annual dinner held in June. For 16 years, Laschelle has faithfully served Leonardtown as it has grown, nearly doubling in size from when she started! Facilitator of many revitalization projects around town, including the Wharf Park, the Port of Leonardtown Winery and Park, numerous streetscape improvement projects and the current multimillion dollar wastewater treatment plant upgrade, among other projects. Laschelle has worked tirelessly to make Leonardtown a better place to live, work or own a business. Her commitment and love towards Leonardtown show in everything she does. This is a huge honor for her and we want to wish her hearty congratulations!



# Leonardtown BEACON

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## Office Hours

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