

Leonardtown 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

NOVEMBER 11

Veteran's Day Parade
Leonardtown Square

NOVEMBER 10 & 17

Zumba Fitness® Around Town
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Shepherds Old Field Market

NOVEMBER 23

Christmas on the Square
4:30 – 8:30 p.m. New Time!
Leonardtown Square

NOVEMBER 29

5:30 p.m.

and NOVEMBER 30

8:30 a.m.

Downtown Strategy Plan Draft
Public Presentation in Town Hall

DECEMBER 1, 8 & 15

Zumba Fitness® Around Town
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Shepherds Old Field Market

DECEMBER 15

Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square
Leonardtown Square

APRIL 14, 2019

Earth Day
Leonardtown Square

Check out our festivals
and special events
at [Facebook.com/
TownofLeonardtown](https://www.facebook.com/TownofLeonardtown)



FIND EVERYTHING on your HOLIDAY LIST in Leonardtown!



November 24th is Small Business Saturday here in Leonardtown – a campaign designed to promote small, locally-owned businesses. Small Business Saturday continues to be an annual holiday shopping tradition. This will take place the day following Leonardtown's annual Christmas on the Square celebration and Black Friday. This effort is to encourage the community to support local shops for the holiday season and then all year long. Leonardtown is going all out for Small



Good Earth Natural Foods

Business Saturday with a fun day of shopping from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be an exciting and festive feel in the air with strolling carolers, handmade gift items under the tent on the Square,

and specials in each of the participating businesses located all over Leonardtown. Shepherd's Old Field, located on Duke Street behind the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, is a treasure in itself, with over 30 unique vendors, a Farmers Market and a brudergarten (community beer garden) and coffee shop opening soon.

Sunday, Nov., 25 SOF will be adding to the weekend excitement by inviting 20 visiting vendors to their market for the day. By shopping locally, you are letting these small businesses know that you value them and their contribution to keeping Leonardtown vibrant and alive.

Small Business Saturday was established in 2010. By 2012, officials in all 50 states participated! In 2017, an estimated 108 million consumers reported shopping or dining at local independently-owned businesses on Small Business Saturday – generating roughly \$12 billion in reported spending.

America's small businesses are the economic engine that creates the majority of new jobs, 61.8% annually. The power of small business is evident when you consider that during the last two recessionary periods new jobs were continually created by our nation's small companies.



Handmade jewelry
at Opal Gallery



Handmade
Artisan Chocolates

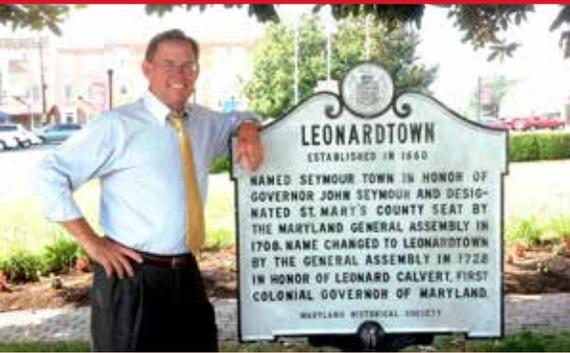
continued on page 7

Come on Out

Zumba Fitness® Around Town

November 10 & 17/2018, December 1, 8 & 15/2018

Zumba Fitness® Around Town is a new fitness series that will take place at various venues throughout Town. During the Fall and Winter months (and in the event of inclement weather), the series will be held at Shepherd's Old Field Market. During the Spring and Summer, the Zumba sessions will be held at various locations throughout Town including Leonardtown Wharf and the Port of Leonardtown Winery Park. Certified Zumba instructors will alternately teach the hour-long classes from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. More dates and locations will be announced soon.



Mayor's Message

Small Business Saturday is November 24th this year but I challenge each of you to support our small businesses all year long. America's small businesses are the economic engine that creates over 61% of new jobs annually. While last year our country saw the highest rate of first year success for small businesses in 10 years, at 79.9%, the long-range odds are dismal with only 33% surviving 10 years in business. The feature article in this issue talks about the many reasons our small businesses are so important to the local economy. Competing with online convenience and big box chain stores has become more and more challenging. The Town Council and I understand that Leonardtown's role is not to compete or attract the large chains but to help create an environment where our small local businesses can thrive.

Building on the successful renewal of our downtown over the last couple of decades is our highest priority. In early September, we began the process of updating our Downtown Economic Development Strategy for what we all want the downtown to look like in 5, 10 or 20 years. What types of businesses do we want to recruit? How do we support and retain the businesses we have today? How do we attract more retail? We have hired a consulting firm, Mahan Rykiel Associates, to help us develop this strategy. Mahan Rykiel representatives held 3 days of partnering sessions with many segments of our town; residents, business owners, building owners, developers and large employers, to hear ideas and concerns that will go into developing the plan. This process will continue November 29th when a follow up open meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall to review the draft recommendations by Mahan Rykiel. I hope you will plan to attend and be a part of this important process of planning for Leonardtown's future.

Let's all do what we can to support our small businesses, not just November 24th, but all year long.

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor

Water Quality Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report:
www.leonardtown.somd.com/government/CCRReport-current.pdf

Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting



The official start to the holiday season in Leonardtown begins with the Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, November 23, 2018. This popular, annual event starts an hour earlier this year! Please note that the event will be held from 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The day's festivities include holiday entertainment and music, fire truck rides, a live Nativity, horse and carriage rides, a petting zoo, sleigh rides, face painting, hayrides, food, hot chocolate, funnel cakes and much more. Be sure to visit Mrs. Claus' tent for a story and cookies with Mrs. Claus, balloon art and face painting courtesy of **Kreative Kharacters** and a special Christmas Craft. **St. Mary's College of Maryland** community art students donated their time and love to Mrs. Claus' Craft with the aid of seniors from **Cedar Lane Senior Community Living Center**. A special thank you to **Wine and Design** and **CP Art Studio** for donating their time to assist with the design and creation of the craft. Don't miss the arrival of Santa for the lighting of the Christmas tree at 7:00 p.m. Many of our downtown restaurants, art galleries and boutiques will be open for your holiday dining and shopping; sample the fine local cuisine, then browse and buy during the event or come back the next day to shop during Small Business Saturday!

Park at the College of Southern Maryland and take the free, round-trip shuttle bus for easier access into Town. The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, the Leonardtown Business Association and the Commissioners of Leonardtown sponsor this one-of-a-kind holiday event. Check www.leonardtown.somd.com for the latest details and entertainment schedule. Rain date: Saturday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. (tree lighting only).

Santa & Mrs. Claus

Join us in welcoming Santa & Mrs. Claus back to Leonardtown Square on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Hear Santa read a story then visit with both Santa and Mrs. Claus. Remember to bring your Christmas "Wish List". Don't forget your camera to take as many photos as you like. This is a FREE event! (In the event of inclement weather, Santa & Mrs. Claus will move to the Winegardner Auto showroom.)



Visit the Town of Leonardtown on the Web at leonardtown.somd.com for current news happenings in and around Town, and to read current and earlier publications of the Leonardtown Beacon newsletter online.

Town Tidbits

The White Rabbit Book Store



Once upon a time, there was a woman named Ms. Joyce Watson who lived in Leonardtown, MD. Ms. Watson loved children's books, and in 2007 she opened The White Rabbit, a delightfully charming shop with an exquisite selection of children's books. She ran the shop until her death in February 2018.

Ms. Becky Fielder, a White Rabbit customer and former teacher, took over managing the store in February and became the new owner in June. Under the inspired ownership of Ms. Fielder, the always bright and cheerful store is now brimming with a new assortment of games, 3-D greeting cards, puzzles, puppets, back-to-school necessities and hundreds of books for all ages – from babies to great-grandparents. Fantastic new releases, classic literature, required school list titles, popular chapter books, graphic novels and board books fill the bright shelves and displays.

This whimsical and inviting bookstore has an active calendar of events. Recent and upcoming events include Book Clubs, Story Times, Music and Sing-Alongs, Harry Potter Activities, Dinosaur Days, Lego building, Puppet Shows and Author Book Signings. If you missed these fun events, check our Facebook page for what is upcoming this Fall. <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRabbitBooksandGifts>

The White Rabbit is located at 25470 Point Lookout Road, Unit G in the Breton Marketplace, behind Ledo's Pizza.



Spice Studio Celebrates First Anniversary

On September 7, 2018, SPICE Studio celebrated its first birthday on the Leonardtown Square. During the party, guests experienced a pop-up retail shop from Explore Couture, tasted wine from Xella Winery and Vineyard, purchased small bites from Quality Street Catering,

and participated in golf swing assessments from Proflex Physical Therapy. In addition, there was mingling and celebrating among an impressive table full of raffle prizes donated by local businesses. It was a joyous evening to remember for all involved.

One month later, SPICE returned to The Front Porch for their 2nd Annual Bacon, Barre, and Bubbles event. Attendees participated in a 50 minute outdoor barre class and enjoyed brunch provided by The Front Porch. The occasion was a fundraiser for St. Mary's Breast Cancer Awareness and Outreach Program, and the studio was able to raise over \$1000, which matched the previous year's earnings. SPICE continues to uphold its mission of being *Strong People Incorporating Changes Everyday*.

Be sure to stop by the studio for Shop Small Business Saturday on November 24th from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00p.m. They will have holiday specials and several pop-up shops from local businesses.



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Mayor

Daniel W. Burris

Town Council

Tyler Alt
Christy Hollander
Hayden T. Hammett
J. "Jay" Maguire Mattingly, IV
Mary Maday Slade

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
Brandy Blackstone, PR & Event Coordinator
Beth Sandberg, Office/Procurement Manager
Tony Wheatley, Capital Project Coordinator
Cpl. Kristi Nelson, 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
Jeff Brown
Heather Earhart
Chris Jeys
Laura Schultz

Board of Appeals

Jack Candela, Chair
Robert "Bob" Wentworth
Darren Meyer
Nick Colvin
Andrew Ponti

Meetings

Town Council - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. November 13, December 10, January 14, February 11

Planning & Zoning Commission - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. November 19, December 17, January 22, February 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@leonardtownmd.gov

Website: Leonardtown.somd.com

The Office of the Commissioners

of Leonardtown will be closed in

observance of the upcoming holidays:

November 12 Veteran's Day (*observed*)
November 22 Thanksgiving Day
November 23 Day after Thanksgiving
December 24,25 Christmas Eve/Day
December 31 New Year's Eve
January 1 New Year's Day

Town Tidbits *(cont. from page 3)*

Small Southern Maryland Winery Claims Top Honors at Maryland Wine Competition



The Port of Leonardtown Winery (POLW) is located in the picturesque Port of Leonardtown Park off Rt. 5 on Newtowne Neck Road in Leonardtown, MD. Enjoy a tasting, then relax with a picnic and glass of wine on their patio. Live music every Saturday and First Friday. Tasting Room is open 7 days a week. Stop in for Sangria Saturday! (301) 690-2192. Check www.polwinery.com and Facebook for special event details.

medal. They are the first Southern Maryland winery to earn the top award.

“This prestigious award tops off an 8-year trend of consistently producing award winning wines since the Southern Maryland Wine Growers Cooperative first formed and began operating the Port of Leonardtown Winery in 2009” said Co-op President Patrick Isles. “This recognition is a reflection of the hard work and attention to detail that our cooperative members/growers and talented wine production team puts into our products.”

The co-op style winery has provided an advantage to the POLW that many other wineries do not have. There are eleven vineyards, all located in southern

Maryland, that contribute grapes to the wine that the winery produces. This sets POLW apart because each vineyard has a different soil and climate. As winemaker, Lauren Zimmerman says, “We are beyond excited for this huge win. Our unique microclimate is consistently producing top class, premium red and white wine. Winning this award proves that great wines are grown in Southern Maryland soil.”



Line Red, and Albariño are all set to be on the shelves before the holiday season. They have wines for all drinkers and all seasons. If you're looking for a fun, family, pet friendly environment, they are your place to visit!



This has been an unprecedented year for the POLW. At the beginning of 2018, they hired a new general manager followed by a new tasting room manager in October. It has been their personal mission to enhance customer service and connect with the people of southern Maryland. Since then, the winery has had record breaking sales and sold out of four wines before their anticipated sell out date. Michael Hughes, General Manager explains, “We are always looking for ways to be innovative, but also ways to stay with traditions. So far it has worked out in our favor!”

This fall they are releasing three new wines to their showcase. The new McIntosh Run, Old

Escape Rooms Southern Maryland

Escape Rooms Southern Maryland, a new kind of fun entertainment, has opened its doors on the Square in Leonardtown. An escape room is a real-life escape game in which small groups of participants find themselves in a “locked” room with hidden clues and one mission—to escape!

Owner, CJ Langley, explained, “apart from being a completely entertaining and unique idea for a group of friends and family to enjoy - local businesses, schools, and organizations can use Escape Rooms Southern Maryland for a team-building activity or to book private parties and events.” It's the perfect addition to the beginning of a night out or as an add-on to a weekend of other fun activities. “Being located on the Square in Leonardtown you can easily pair the fun with dinner, cocktails, shopping and more,” Stephanie added.



Escape Rooms Southern Maryland is located at 22715 Washington Street Suite 204, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Reservations are required and can be made online at escaperoomsomd.com. Contact: Stephanie and CJ Langley, 301-690-0704.

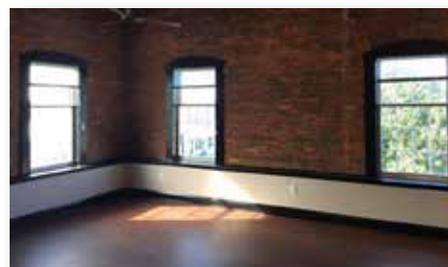
The Clements Cuties Visit Leonardtown

The Town Hall and many small businesses received a visit from The Clements Cuties on August 15th. These “cuties” were spreading the word of the many great events they hold each year to help local causes. These types of charitable efforts are telling of the great community of St. Mary’s! Do you recognize any of these “cuties”?



Park Avenue Apartments Open

The open house for the long awaited opening of 7 luxury apartments in the former PNC Bank building occurred on August 30th. The building originally built in 1903 was purchased and completely remodeled by Rainbow Construction. The apartments are available for lease in historic downtown Leonardtown, overlooking the Town Square. The units are on the second and third floors with retail and restaurant space available on the first floor. Call 240-216-0025 or email at rentals@rainbowconstructs.com for a showing.



Leonardtown Ford

Located in the heart of St. Mary’s County, Leonardtown Ford is a hometown car dealer, providing some of the best customer service that Southern Maryland has to offer.

They stock a wide selection of new and pre-owned vehicles, offer service for your Ford vehicle, whether large or small, from some of the most experienced technicians

in the area, and Ford genuine parts to help you get the job done right!

But it doesn’t stop there. Leonardtown Ford takes great pride in giving back to our wonderful community. With relief collections for those in need, to fun family events like our Safe Trunk or Treat for the kids, we love giving back to the community that supports us, and beyond!

We’re big enough to help, but small enough to remember your name!

Beth Graeme Photography Studio Opens

A ribbon cutting was held for Beth Graeme Photography Studio on September 25th at her new studio located at 22760 Washington Street. Beth is an amazing photographer who loves to capture emotion, relationship and unique personalities in her photography. Be sure to visit Beth Graeme Photography on Facebook or call 301-475-0303 to learn about the wide variety of services she provides.



Shepherd’s Old Field Market Holds Grand Opening

There were a few delays along the way but Shepherds Old Field Market (SOF) opened in style the weekend of September 22nd and 23rd. Hundreds of visitors were treated to live music, unique shopping and lots of fun. Make sure you visit this one of a kind market located at 22725 Duke Street behind the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Dept. SOF Market is open Wednesday- Sunday. Visit them on Facebook for more information.





St. Mary's County Arts Council News

We have new office hours! Stop by six days a week to learn about the Arts in St. Mary's County, shop at our Gallery & Gift Shop where the works

of over 25 local artists are displayed and available for purchase, and meet our friendly staff members. We are located at 22660 Washington St. (first floor of the Leonardtown Arts Center), open hours are 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Every Wednesday from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. we host an Open Lunch Social, bring your lunch and join us. On First Friday evenings we host a special Art Share Series from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. followed by an audience participation Drum Circle with the SoMar Drummers from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Visit our newly updated website at www.stmarysartscouncil.com for details about these and other upcoming special events, sign up for our "Artist Registry", find grant and scholarship information, and much more.

Leonardtown's Arts & Entertainment District Celebration



A big thank you to all who joined us last September 7th to celebrate our anniversary as an officially designated A&E District! Shops and restaurants were open late, guest artists were present on The Square performing demos and leading collaborative community projects. Tiny House tours hosted by St. Mary's College of Maryland were a big draw to both locals and visitors alike, and a new Leonardtown mural was created by Carrie Patterson and her community art students.

Many attendees "walked the walk" and voted for their favorite pieces as part of the Art Walk contest in cooperation with St. Mary's County Arts Council. Congratulations to the winners by popular vote: 1st place – Carol Davis; 2nd place – Yan Hui Hazzard; and 3rd place – Angela Wathen! Attendees also enjoyed live music by jazz group Higher Standards and the a cappella Infinity choir from Chopticon High School led by Sarah Lorek. Other featured performers included: Taryn Brown who produced an exciting "Summer Flashmob Reprise" (originally performed in May), Zumba dancing organized by Brandy Blackstone, and the audience participation Drum Circle with Sheila Klotz and the SoMar Drummers.

Second Public Art Project Complete

In October 2017, the first Leonardtown A&E District public art project was unveiled. A beautiful tile bench located outside of Town Hall, by artist Parran Coltery, is now being enjoyed daily by passersby. Earlier this year a second public art grant was received by the St. Mary's



Mural Concept Representation

Arts Council and the Leonardtown A&E District to commission an additional art piece. The north wall of The Hair Company building was generously offered by Jackie Buckler, owner of the building, to become the home for this new project. Drawing attention to our waterfront at Leonardtown Wharf was the theme selected by the committee who chose artist Jamie Naluai's beautiful proposed mural. This stunning 5 panel illustration of the history of the Wharf has been installed and can be enjoyed by all. The prominent visibility of this mural will lead visitors to explore our beautiful waterfront jewel. Jamie is another example of our many talented local artists.

Conrad Family Donates Building to St. Mary's County Arts Council



A recent very generous donation by the family of Pete and Judy Conrad will ensure that our wonderful cooperative of artists, North End Gallery, will be able to stay at their Fenwick Street location for as long as they wish. North End Gallery formed in 1986 and consists of up to 35 owner/members. Judy Conrad was a founding member and her family is honoring her commitment to this wonderful organization by donating the building at 41652 Fenwick Street to the St. Mary's County Arts Council who will maintain the building and ensure that North End Gallery has a home in Leonardtown's A&E district for many years to come. The Conrad's son, Paul, was present at the Gallery for a First Friday unveiling of a beautiful commemorative plaque in his parents honor on November 2nd. The plaque was created by Gallery artist, Parran Coltery.



FIND EVERYTHING on your HOLIDAY LIST in Leonardtown!

(cont. from front page)



The Front Porch Restaurant

Did you know, when you shop with local merchants, more of your money stays close to home; creating jobs, supporting the parks, recreation centers, libraries and other things that make Leonardtown a great place to live? Did you know that local businesses are more likely to support local community causes and generate almost four times as much economic benefit for the surrounding region as shopping at a chain or internet store?

Because a visit to the family-owned shop or a stop at the neighborhood restaurant not only supports our local economies, it promotes more vibrant communities! By choosing to spend your money here in Leonardtown at independent locally-owned and operated businesses instead of at the big box stores, national chains or the internet you can have a dramatic effect on your local economy by helping the little guys not just survive, but thrive. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

We are excited about our Small Business Saturday. Come to Leonardtown on November 24th and check out the businesses and enjoy the fun. If you already choose to shop in Leonardtown's local businesses, thank you, if you don't this is a great opportunity to find out what you are missing! Come back often this holiday season and again all year long—remember a successful small town depends on you.

Bring your list, find unique gifts!



S-Kape Salon



Tips to keep your home safe and secure during the holidays!

1. Keep your plans offline. (**DO NOT** post your plans to Facebook/Instagram/Twitter). Post your photos when you return home.
2. Tell a trusted neighbor your plans so they can watch your house and cars.
3. Inspect your décor before hanging (check light strands for frayed cords, make sure they are indoor/outdoor approved). Do not hang garland

Deputy's Corner

on a lit fire place, water your live tree to prevent fires, and use flameless candles. Check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

4. Hide your purchases. Do not leave all the new gifts you buy in plain view of an open window and don't leave the empty boxes on the curb. Online ordering is convenient unless some porch pirates steals your package...so install a doorbell camera, have a neighbor hold your packages, pick them up from the post office or have a designated place for packages to be left out of sight.



Town News

Town Hall Elevator and Fire Sprinkler Project

In August of 2016 Leonardtown Town Hall was relocated to a long vacant building at 22670 Washington Street. The Mayor and Council felt that reuse of this vacant building provided years of growing room as well as better accessibility for the citizens and visitors of Leonardtown. The large, open second floor would be ideal for a public gathering space. A Community Development Block Grant from the Dept. of Housing and Community Development was received to add an elevator, fire alarm and fire sprinkler system to the building. WM Davis, Inc. was the low bidder for the project and has recently completed the project. The first Town Council meeting was held in the new space on November 13, 2018. We invite the public to stop by and check out this great new gathering space.

Trash and Recycling Information



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 6 & 7, 2018.

Holiday Pickup - Thanksgiving is on Thursday and Christmas is on a Tuesday, so for those weeks slide your pickup day one day forward. For example, trash pickup scheduled for Monday will slide forward to Tuesday and so on for that week. Recyclables will also slide forward on those weeks and be picked up on Thursday, except for Thanksgiving when recycling will be picked up on the regular day - Wednesday. Other information on Leonardtown's collection services can be found by visiting our website at leonardtowa.somd.com.

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