

Leonardtoun 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

2ND Saturday, June - August

Sunrise Yoga
Leonardtoun Wharf Park

3RD Saturday, April - September

Coastal Arts Market
Leonardtoun Wharf Park

4TH Saturday, May - August

Downtown Tunes
Leonardtoun Square

April 22, 2018

Earth Day Celebration
Leonardtoun Square & Wharf

April 29, 2018

Spring Fling Classic Car Show
Leonardtoun Square

May 1, 2018

Leonardtoun Elections
Leonardtoun Town Office

May 12, 2018

CFF Great Strides 5K Walk
Leonardtoun Wharf

May 25, 2018

Concert Series: The Lucky Few
Leonardtoun Square

May 26, 2018

Life is Good in LG 5K & Fun Walk
Leonard's Grant

June 3, 2018

So. MD Youth Orchestra & Choir
Leonardtoun Square

June 9, 2018

Rotary Paddle for First Heroes
Kayak & Paddleboard Races
Leonardtoun Wharf

June 9, 2018

St. Mary's Crab Festival
SMC Fairgrounds

June 14, 2018

Flag Day Celebration
Governmental Center

June 21, 2018

Concert Series: U.S. Navy Band Country Current
Leonardtoun Square

July 13-14, 2018

So. MD Film Festival
Leonardtoun - Multiple Venues

July 28-29, 2018

SMBC Summer Regatta
Leonardtoun Wharf

August 4, 2018

Beach Party on the Square
Leonardtoun Square & Wharf

Shepherds Old Field Market

COMING SOON TO LEONARDTOWN!

Two years ago Gerrie L'Heureux retired from her executive federal contracting job and was looking for something to occupy her time. She had always been fascinated by the HGTV shows, such as Flip or Flop, Fixer Upper and Rehab Addict, showing contractors taking old dilapidated homes and renovating them and thought to herself "I can do that!" She started with one house on Longmore Street here in Leonardtown and quickly sold it when she was done. That success led to others, one on Lawrence Avenue and one on Dorsey Street. Then she started on her fourth house, a fixer upper on Camalier Drive, which she and her husband eventually moved into. During her renovations on the home on Longmore Street she noticed the old Leonardtown Building Supply building. An idea slowly began to form as she drove past that neglected building every day. She began to envision it as a wonderful multi-purpose building where people could gather together to enjoy a variety of activities and interact with their neighbors

and friends. Her name for it was, "a community catalyst". Thus began the idea for Shepherds Old Field Market.

She contacted the owner of the building and inquired about leasing it. An agreement was signed and she hired an architect, Spence Bowling of Wicomico Development Corporation, to make sure the building was sound and to make sure the costs to renovate were not going to be prohibitive. Built in the 1940's, the 9,000 square foot area Gerrie was leasing needed all new electrical and plumbing, plus new air conditioning and heating systems. It had been used for years as a hardware store and for storage for the telephone company. It had only one bathroom, so new bathrooms would also be needed. The ceilings in the building are tall and there was an existing loft area that Gerrie will be utilizing.

Gerrie's concept for the space is to lease individual stores, built to order, made of temporary walls that can be moved as needs change. There will be a "street" running through the center of the building, paved with faux brick, with each of the stores having an individual storefront façade, with doors, windows, window boxes, awnings and shutters. Making it look like an outside streetscape inside. She even recycled the old flooring from her house renovation on Camalier Drive and used it as siding on one of the storefronts! The second floor mezzanine will have walls and windows facing the street, making the buildings inside look like two

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Town Tidbits



Mayor's Message

On March 12, 2018 Governor Larry Hogan once again visited Leonardtown. Bringing with him a number of his Cabinet members, he helped turn the first shovels of dirt to begin the Rt. 5 widening break-out project. This long discussed project is finally funded and ready to move forward, making this well travelled corridor a safer route for St. Mary's residents.

This critical \$12 million dollar safety improvement project will add a center left turn lane; add bike/buggy lanes and improve sidewalks between the Clarks Rest entrance and just south of the Medstar St. Mary's Hospital entrance. Approximately 26,000 cars travel this section of road daily and that number is expected to increase to 32,000 cars per day by 2035. A larger future project will continue the improvements south to the Hollywood Road intersection and north to the Newtowne Neck Road intersection. SHA Administrator, Greg Slater said, "This area is growing, and it is essential to maintain safe access and transit to nearby schools and businesses."

Work on the anticipated three year project will begin in April with the advance grading portion of the effort. Most of the work will be done between the hours of 8 PM and 5 AM Sunday night through Friday morning. This much needed project will be challenging during construction and I encourage all drivers to be vigilant when traveling through the area.

The Town Council and I would like to thank the Hogan administration for recognizing the importance of this project to St. Mary's County residents and businesses.

Daniel W. Burris, Mayor



Craft Guild Shop Spring Open House

The Craft Guild Shop wants to invite you to their Spring Open House on Saturday, April 21st. Demonstrations, refreshments and new inventory will be featured. They will also be introducing their new reward card for frequent customers. Meet the artists and look for their special deals! Hours are 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon. - Sat. & 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM on Sun.

www.craftguildshop.net 301-997-1644 for more information. Also on Sat, September 1st from 10:00-5:00 PM they will be celebrating their 42nd year in business with a special Anniversary Day Celebration. Look for details in the next Beacon!



7th Annual Life's Good in LG 5K and Fun Run

Time to register for the 7th Annual Life's Good in LG 5K and Fun Run, benefitting the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Dept. Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 26th in the Leonard's Grant Subdivision. This event has donated over \$15,000.00 to the LVFD over the last six years! For more information see their website: www.lifesgoodinlg5k.com

Leonardtown Rotary Paddle for Heroes Kayak & Paddleboard Races

New to our calendar this year is a paddle race fundraiser sponsored by the Leonardtown Rotary. Proceeds from this unique June 9th event will provide academic scholarships for St. Mary's County 1st Responders, as well as funds for military personnel experiencing PTSD to attend the Warfighter Advance therapeutic program. Starting at 10 AM, races will start and finish at Leonardtown Wharf. Don't paddle? No problem! You can help raise funds by sponsoring a racer or racing team. One second is deducted from the racer's time for every dollar you pledge. For registration, pledge and sponsorship details visit www.paddleforheroes.org.

Thomas Mattingly Sr. Receives Award!

Comptroller Franchot presented the *William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award* to our own St. Mary's County recipient, Thomas Mattingly, Sr. Mr. Mattingly is being recognized for his lifetime of dedicated public service, both as a three-term St. Mary's County Commissioner and as a Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department member for 54 years. Over the years, Mr. Mattingly has worked to promote the firefighting community and the sacrifices that they make, hosting annual fundraisers for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, leading efforts to construct a museum for the 90-year-old department and being featured in a book supporting families of firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

The *William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award* was created to honor the legacy of public service exemplified by former Governor, Comptroller, and Baltimore City Mayor William Donald Schaefer. One winner is selected from each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions.



CSM Offers Workforce Development Courses

Help shape America's future and prepare or strengthen your career in the federal government with professional development training courses at the College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus. Courses include: *NAVAIR*, *Simplified*, *Cyber Awakening* and *Flight Test: the Discipline*. Check their website for more course offerings and to register at www.csmd.edu/go/register.

Town Tidbits



Newtowne Manor House

81st Annual Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour

Spend part of your Memorial Day weekend touring some of St. Mary's County's great historical houses and gardens. The Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to help preserve and restore architecturally and historically significant properties in the State of Maryland. This year's pilgrimage proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Newtowne Manor House. For tickets and info on where the tour will visit, see their website at mhgp.org/Saint-Mary-s-County-2018. Saturday May 26, 2018 from 10 AM to 5 PM, rain or shine. Tickets are \$35 online, \$40 at the door (cash or check only at door).

Also the St. Mary's County Garden Club is celebrating their 80th anniversary this year, 1938-2018. To commemorate their 80th and to promote the Pilgrimage they will be giving away **redbud seedlings** and selling "**Tour Bell**" tickets on the square in Leonardtown during Earth Day on Sunday, April 22 from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM Call 301-861-6112 for additional information.



Compass Point Charters Re-opens for the Spring Season

Are you looking for an activity to share with your family or friends that is affordable and fun?

This is the second season in operation for Compass Point Charters at the Wharf in Leonardtown. Come see the wonderful scenes on Breton Bay while sailing in a 36 foot Sabre Sailing yacht or cruise in a 27 foot Chapparral powerboat. 1, 2 or 3 hour excursions at only \$90 per hour for 1 to 6 people. Let's go boating! www.compasspointbuzz.com Call 240-298-1211 to book your charter.

Park Ave Apartments

Seven apartments with the best view in town will soon be available on the second and third floor of the former PNC building, thanks to Rainbow Construction. Retail or a restaurant use is planned for the first floor.



Leonardtown Library and Senior Activity Center to Begin Construction

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are awarding the construction contract to Tuckman-Barbee Construction Co., Inc. of Upper Marlboro, MD. The expected start date to begin building the new Leonardtown Library and Senior Activity Center is anticipated for late April or early May. The facility will be located off of Leonard's Grant Parkway near the Capt. Walter Francis Duke Elementary School, with a planned completion date of October 2019.



The Hamptons at Leonardtown Scheduled to Open Late 2018

The 142 unit luxury apartments are under construction and scheduled to open late in 2018. The two buildings, located between Fenwick Street and Rt. 5 near Academy Hills, will feature elevators, a pool and clubhouse and will be an easy walk to downtown Leonardtown. The project is an important economic development project for Leonardtown. Stay tuned for updates on their opening.



Port of Leonardtown Winery Shows Off New Tasting Room

Opened in May of 2010, it was time for a makeover of the Port of Leonardtown Winery tasting room. Hard work paid off, on March 17th and 18th the new tasting room was unveiled to crowds of visitors. Much of the work was done by one of the cooperative members, Steve Purvins. Stop by and see the updated space for yourself and try some of their award winning wines. The tasting room is open 7 days a week from Noon until 6 PM. For more information visit the website at www.polwinery.com.



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
Beth Sandberg, Office/Procurement Manager
Tony Wheatley, Capital Project Coordinator
DeAnn Adler, Grants Administrator & Beacon Editor
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
John "Jack" Candela
Heather Earhart
Christy Sterling
Laura Schultz
Tyler Alt - Alternate

Board of Appeals

Dr. Herbert Winnik, Chair
Robert "Bob" Wentworth
Darren Meyer
Jeff Brown

Meetings

Town Council - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. April 11 (Wed.), May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10.

Planning & Zoning Commission - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17.

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:

May 28	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 3	Labor Day
October 8	Columbus Day
November 12	Veteran's Day (observed)
November 22	Thanksgiving Day
November 23	Day after Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day

Leonardtwn Concert Series

Featuring a wide variety of music, the Leonardtown Concert Series has four very special concerts on the calendar so far. Thursday, May 24th, the Leonardtown High School Jazz Band will present their Spring Concert at the Wharf starting at 6 PM. With 20 years of professional experience, and well-known throughout the Baltimore area, *The Lucky Few* will become your favorite modern cover band from 6-8 PM on Friday, May 25th. On Sunday evening, June 3rd, the Southern Maryland Youth Orchestra & Choir perform everything from classical to pop in a series of groups and ensembles. On Thursday, June 21st, the Town is ecstatic to host the fast fingers of the talented *U.S. Navy Band Country Current* bluegrass ensemble from 6 – 7:30 PM. As always, check our Facebook page or visit leonardtwn.somd.com for details and updates.

Downtown Tunes Kicks Off on May 26

The Leonardtown Business Association is once again providing free, family friendly summer weekend concerts. Guests are encouraged to grab dinner at one of our local restaurants and then bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the music in the Square. This year's lineup: Saturday, May 26, 6 – 9 PM – *Drivin' Muzzy* & Sunday, July 29, 3:30 – 6:30 PM – *Wesley Spangler* & Saturday, June 23, 6 – 9 PM – *Latrice Carr* & Saturday, August 25, 6 – 9 PM – *Robbie Boothe*.

2018 So. MD Film Festival Call for Submissions

After their 2017 hiatus to show award-winning films in Charles and Calvert County, the Steering Committee for the SMDFP is pleased to announce their return to Leonardtown July 13-14, 2018! Filmmakers wishing to submit their work should visit smdff.org. Submissions are due no later than May 18, 2018. All ages welcome; no submission fee! To sponsor or volunteer for the event, please email smdfilmfest@gmail.com.

Summer First Friday Celebrations

May First Friday welcomes warmer weather and the Sounds of Spring, featuring the Chesapeake Swing Band and a community flash mob. The First Friday *Where's Crabby?* Scavenger Hunt returns in June, along with music by C. Bass and the Rockfish. Come jam in the Square with Bob Schaller & Friends during *Red, White and Blues Jam* First Friday in July, and round out the summer with August *Summer Lovin' Date Nite* First Friday, spotlighting our restaurants and bars, with special "drop in" events for the kids!

Opal Fine Art Gallery - Opening Receptions for 2018

Opal Fine Art Gallery is located at 41625 Park Avenue in downtown Leonardtown. The gallery is owned and operated by local artists Cynthia Rosenblatt and Jane Rowe. The gallery features original works of various local and regional artists and artisans. For more information, visit their Facebook page or call 302-438-1629. Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Saturday from 11 AM - 5 PM & First Fridays from 11 AM - 8 PM.



First Friday Opening reception dates at Opal Fine Art Gallery for 2018:

April 6th – Transitions - show runs April 4th thru 28th – A time of change; it could be lifestyle, attitudes or seasons, a movement, passage, or change from one position or stage to another.

May 4th - Off the Jewelers Bench – show runs May 2nd thru May 26th – 2nd Annual Art Jewelry Invitational - Whether you are a collector of unique jewelry or looking for the perfect gift, this show at Opal Fine Art Gallery is not to be missed! Off The Jewelers Bench is an invitational show featuring the work of carefully selected jewelers dedicated to original, handmade, one of a kind and limited edition Art Jewelry.

June 1st - Sculpture and the Garden – show runs May 30th thru June 23rd – Opal Fine Art Gallery will feature sculpture during this month's show. We will also celebrate the garden with work by various local and regional artists.

July 6th - Color and Light Society Member Show – show runs June 27th thru July 14th – The works of these talented artists from the Color and Light Society of Southern Maryland will be on display at Opal Fine Art Gallery.

Also Opal Gallery hosted Chopticon High School Visual Art students Cassidy Norris and Rebecca Collier in March. They are two of the first graduates of the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts Capstone. Their pieces were on display from February 28th thru March 17th 2018.



Rebecca Collier's *The Flip*

Leonardtwn Arts Center - Meet the Artists on First Fridays

Stop in from 6-8 PM to see their recently remodeled and upgraded studio area, meet the artists at work, and sign up for upcoming classes and workshops. Contact Joi at joi_lowe@yahoo.com or see the Leonardtown Arts Center Facebook page for additional information.



Visit the studio of Lee Anne Shontere

**SPECIAL INTEREST TO
LEONARDTOWN RESIDENTS!!!
VOTE – VOTE – VOTE**
2018 Leonardtown Elections

This is your chance to make your voice heard! Election Day for three Leonardtown Town Council seats is Tuesday May 1, 2018. A Mayor and five-member Town Council govern Leonardtown, with each official serving a four-year term of office.

Cast Your Ballot

Polls will be open for voting on Tuesday, May 1st between 12:00 noon and 7:00 PM at the Town Office, located at 22670 Washington Street.

Absentee ballots are available from the Town Office. The deadline to submit your completed application for an absentee ballot to the Town Office is Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

***Information for Voters and Candidates in the 2018
Leonardtown Election***



To vote or file as a candidate for elected office in Leonardtown elections, you must reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, be at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the general election and be a registered voter.

The voter registration deadline for residents to vote in the Leonardtown election is Friday, April 6, 2018.

The deadline for residents to file as a candidate for one of the Town Council seats in the Leonardtown election is Monday, April 16, 2018.

Having a Leonardtown mailing address or owning property within the incorporated limits does not qualify you as an actual resident. If you wish to confirm that you actually reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, wish to file as a candidate for office, or have other questions about Leonardtown's 2018 election; please contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791.

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



*You can also follow
Leonardtown events
on Facebook.com/
TownofLeonardtown*

***New Businesses Opening
in Leonardtown!***

Dos Amigos Mexican Grill

in the old Café des Artistes dining spot, at
41655 Fenwick Street – 301-997-0515.

Board and Brush

41665 Fenwick St, Unit 15
240-309-2050 – boardandbrush.com

Are you looking for a night out with friends? Is your inner DIY itching for a fun new project without having to buy all your own supplies and make a mess at your house? Then **BOOK A CLASS** at Board & Brush Creative Studio in Leonardtown.



Social Coffee House and Speakeasy

41658 Fenwick Street
socialcoffeehouse.company

In Social's Coffeehouse they serve organic, fair trade, and environmentally responsibly sourced coffee, espresso and teas from the Chesapeake Bay Roasting Company (CBRC). In Social's Speakeasy, they offer gourmet light fare and premium artisan cocktails. They now offer an entire line of locally-distilled, farm-to-bottle spirits from the Tobacco Barn Distillery in Hollywood, Maryland.



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. 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 June 7 & 8 and September 6 & 7, 2018. Bulk items such as bicycles, sofas, tables, chairs, etc, will be collected with your regular trash and should be placed at the curb together on these dates. Paint cans are considered a hazardous material and will not be picked up. Stoves, dishwashers and refrigerators can also be picked up. Refrigerators must have the freon removed and must be tagged by a certified technician.

Holiday Pickup: Memorial Day and Labor Day are on a Monday, so for that week 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. Independence Day is on a Wednesday, so Wednesday's trash will be picked up on Thursday and so on. Recyclables will also slide forward on those weeks and be picked up on Thursday. Other information on Leonardtown's collection services can be found by visiting our website at leonardtown.somd.com.

Shepherds Old Field Market - cont.



story structures. Small vendor's carts, like those seen at the malls, will have a place on this central street. She calls the décor "rustic but classic!" Several of the store spaces are already leased. One will be *Designs by Brooke*, selling handmade candles, body scrubs and abstract paintings on mugs, apparel, canvas, and pillows – all designed by Brooke herself. She will also be hosting monthly painting parties at her shop. A second one will be called Terri's Touch – "unique finds for the home with an artist's touch".

Also leased is a large area for a gym and yoga studio called *root SUP and Fitness*, owned by Cathy Pierce and Jen Houck. They are both certified stand-up paddle board instructors and personal trainers dedicated to fun and fitness training on and off the water. They will be offering classes at the Leonardtown Wharf as well as at Shepherds Old Field. One-on-one personal training, yoga, aerial yoga, camps for kids and workshops will also be offered. A calendar of classes and events will be coming soon.

Another business on the ground floor will be a beer and wine garden called *Brudergarten* which she is particularly excited about. Gerrie's third son, Raphael, will be the proprietor. This, along with the gym and yoga studio, will be the anchors of the project. The beer garden will be serving bar bites and will have an indoor and outdoor space to relax in. In the outdoor space, cornhole, life-sized Jenga, ladder golf, and other games will be available to encourage friendly competitions. Inside, darts and foosball tables will do the same.

Upstairs in the mezzanine area, Gerrie envisions a space for small business owners to come together to pool resources. The mezzanine consignment area will be leased to 21 small vendors in individual, uniquely customized spaces, selling crafts, antiques, artwork and whatever else the vendors want to sell. Several of these spaces are already rented. *Timeless Gifts and Baskets*, *Air Corps Embroidery LLC*, makers of screen printed T-shirts and promotional products, and *Hills Bayside* – sellers of plants and recycled pots, are three of the first lessees. There will also be a leasing and administrative office space with a separate entrance in the mezzanine area on this floor. The stairs leading to this space were constructed from old telephone booth walls and windows and spindles recycled from a home that was being demolished on Washington Street.



One of Gerrie's first ideas for the space was for an indoor farmers market. On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons fresh produce will be available from vendors in the large open space. To get more variety, the items sold will not be limited to local produce and she is still looking for vendors to sell baked goods, local seafood, local cheeses, honey, and even ice cream. One vendor will be *R & H Farms*. This local farm family is raising heritage pigs (red wattle/Berkshire cross) that are hormone and steroid free. Their pigs are fed using less corn and more barley for a more tender meat which has a dark-rich color and a beef-like flavor.

They are awaiting approval to be able to sell salsas, zucchini relish, multiple types of pickles, pineapple zucchini, gumbo starter, jalapenos, pepper jelly, and homemade soap made from goat's milk, and/or lard from their pigs. *Porpoise Creek Farm* will be providing their farm grown fruits and vegetables and will be supplementing with non-local produce during the off-season.

During the times the farmer's market is closed this space can be used to hold dances with a DJ or have a live band perform. Everything from country line dancing, ballroom dancing to German polka bands can take advantage of this large space.

Her vision also includes a coffee shop in the farmer's market area which will access an outside area with a playground where families can enjoy coffee and conversation while the kids have fun with chalkboards, balance beams, tire swings, instrumental wall and a "hot wheels" zone. Eventually Gerrie would like to purchase the entire space, adding an extra 3,000 square feet to the project. She envisions food trucks and movie nights once a month to keep patrons coming back again and again by offering a variety of different things to do.

Gerrie is a military spouse who moved here reluctantly with her husband in 1995. She and her husband lived and raised their four sons on the Pax River Navy Base and she eventually grew to love the area. She worked for two different construction companies before switching to a job as a program manager with a government contractor. Her husband, Michael, has been very supportive of her latest endeavor.

The name Shepherd's Old Field comes from the history of Leonardtown. Shepherd's Old Fields, about 200 acres at the time, was listed in the 1704 rent rolls. It encompassed much of the present area of Leonardtown. In Aleck Loker's book, *A Most Convenient Place*, he states that in 1708 citizens of St. Mary's County petitioned the Governor's Council for a town to be erected on land commonly called Shepherd's Old Field and that a County Court House be built there. Fifty acres of land was purchased from Phillip Lynes at Shepherd's Old Fields on Breton Bay for a town of 100 lots—the beginning of Leonardtown.

Gerrie is working diligently to have a soft opening around mid-April, depending on final construction inspections, with a grand opening planned for mid-May. Follow her on Facebook – Shepherds Old Field Market. Website: shepherdsoldfieldmarket@gmail.com.





Town News

Welcome New Employee - Beth Sandberg

The Town Staff would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest team member, Beth Sandberg. Beth will be the Town's Office/Procurement Manager. Prior to coming to the Town, she worked for St. Mary's County Government and has a background in management and procurement. She looks forward to using her expertise in her new position, as well as learning and meeting as many Leonardtown residents as she can. She is married and resides in Lusby.

In the short time she has been with the Town, she said her eyes have been opened to the wonderful things the Town has to offer to its residents. She enjoys seeing the care and attention the Town Staff shows to the residents here and she is truly excited to be part of the team.



Roger Mattingly Receives the Fire Chief's Award for 2017!



On January 6th at the 90th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, our own Town Council Member, Roger Mattingly, received the 2017 Fire Chief's Award for his hard work and dedication to the Leonardtown Fire Department. He joined the department way back in 1969 and has served faithfully for 49 years! Roger is a Lifetime Member who has devoted his life to the community of Leonardtown and to the LVFD, serving as President in 2003 and chairing many LVFD committees. He has also been the top responder for the past 10 years and still runs calls daily.

Roger also had this small story to tell. "The LVFD has been putting up the Christmas tree on the Town Square for at least 80 years. When I joined in 1969, the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Town Square was not a big deal. We would have 20-25 people show up when we would light the tree. In 1997 I was appointed to chair the Christmas tree committee, which means I was in charge of going out to find a tree, have it cut down, dragged back into Leonardtown and hoisted up by pulleys to a pole in the Town Square. The day after Thanksgiving we would light the tree.

Becky Proffit was a Town Council member back then and she was always promoting events in the square. Becky had asked me if it would be possible to do some advertising and try and promote the tree lighting with some fire truck rides and have Santa light the tree. I thought that was a great idea. So we advertised that Santa would be lighting the tree on that Friday night after Thanksgiving. I also remembered that the Wildewood Shopping Center had a Sleigh that Mr. Wettengel owned and used for the shopping center. I called him, asked him if we could use the sleigh for Leonardtown and without hesitation he said he would be more than happy to help us out. Our advertisement that year said we would have a sleigh for people to have a ride in. Curiosity drew the biggest crowd we had ever had. People were stunned to see us with a larger than life sleigh that would seat 25 people at a time! From then on we set out to make each year better and better. Crowds were huge and have been growing ever since.



Because of the work involved in helping to bring this large Christmas event to Leonardtown, I received the 'Our Town' award in 1998 from then Mayor, Chip Norris, for the first year that the Christmas program was held in the Town Square."

Reminder from Planning & Zoning

Homeowners, did you know building permits are required for sheds, decks, home renovations and many other projects? If you are planning to build or renovate please stop by the Town office to familiarize yourself with Leonardtown's rules and regulations. You can also visit <https://www.leonardtown.somd.com/> to review our Municipal Code online.

Businesses, did you know you are required to obtain a Use & Occupancy Permit prior to opening for business? A Use & Occupancy Permit is required for any new business, businesses changing ownership and/or businesses changing names. The process is simple and fast, just stop by the Town Hall to pick-up an application and speak with staff.

Town Hall Elevator Project Underway

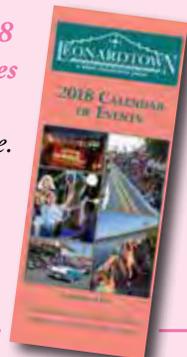
A Community Development Block Grant funded elevator and fire sprinkler system is being installed in the new Town Hall located at 22670 Washington Street. WM Davis, Inc. was awarded the contract to construct the elevator hoistway and install the fire sprinkler. This project will enable the second story meeting space to be utilized in the building. The elevator is scheduled to be completed in mid April.

Water Quality Report

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

Get your **Leonardtown 2018 Calendar of Event Brochures** at various Leonardtown businesses or at the Town Office.

You can also download a copy from our website Leonardtown.somd.com





Town News (cont.)

Enhanced Nutrient Removal Upgrade at Leonardtown Wastewater Treatment Plant

The ENR upgrade at the Leonardtown wastewater treatment plant has been completed! This project upgrades the plant to a state of the art facility and was partially funded by the 2004 Bay Restoration Fund legislation. The efforts are to remove a higher level of nutrients that are going into the Bay. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for April 11th at 2:30 PM.

Main Street Workshop Held

On January 22, 2018 the Commissioners of Leonardtown hosted a workshop led by consultant Tom McGilloway of Mahan Rykiel Associates. This workshop focused on façade improvements to help local business owners better showcase their businesses. The Mayor and Council plan to update the Downtown Plan in the coming year to help with retail recruitment and economic development in the downtown to continue the efforts.



State of the Town Breakfast Held March 9th

The annual State of the Town breakfast, hosted by the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA) and the Town of Leonardtown, was held Friday, March 9th at the College of Southern Maryland. The well attended event is an opportunity to update local business owners on the accomplishments and upcoming plans of the LBA, as well as project updates by Town and County officials. Ellen Lewis, Vice President of the LBA, presented for the LBA news. Mayor Dan Burris and Town Administrator Laschelle McKay updated the group on Town happenings. St. Mary's County Economic Development Director Chris Kaselemis gave an overview of important projects affecting local businesses that his department is working on. The event highlights the cooperation between the various organizations and is always an upbeat and informative meeting. A

special thank you to the major LBA sponsors is a highlight of the event. This year's sponsors include Quality Built Homes, Marrick Homes, Winegardner Motors, SMECO and College of Southern Maryland.

Holiday Collection for Families in Need

Town Deputy, Corporal Kristi Nelson, led a drive to collect toys, food, clothing and household goods for two local families over the holiday season. Thanks to Kristi, Town Staff, Mayor, Council and friends, two families had a wonderful holiday.



Visit the Town of Leonardtown on the web at [own.somd.com">leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardt<span style=) for current news happenings in and around Town, and to read current and earlier publications of the Leonardtown Beacon newsletter online.

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