

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

April 27, 2015

Commissioners of Leonardtown

Often advertised as Historic Downtown Leonardtown, the Square and surrounding areas are home to a rich history – both documented and word-of-mouth – as well as a modern shopping and business district. As Leonardtown continues to move forward, it is essential to remember – and learn from – the past. To celebrate this concept, the First Friday Committee introduces Leonardtown Then & Now. Much like the ArtWalk in September, historic pictures, displays and local speakers will be stationed in businesses around Town this Friday, May 1 from 5 – 8 p.m. Starting with David & Joseph Norris singing and telling stories on the Square, visitors are encouraged to follow the map around Town (see inset) to visit the displays of the past and explore the businesses currently located in these historic sites.

As home to the St. Mary’s County Historical Society, Tudor Hall will be open and selling books and archive issues of *The Chronicles of St. Mary’s*, a periodical dedicated to the history, people and stories of St. Mary’s County. Members will be on hand to answer questions, and they will also be showing a 15-minutes movie about the history of Tudor Hall. Just follow the signs through the Square to Courthouse Drive and around the corner to 41680 Tudor Place. On your way, stop by the historic photo display in the Square and the antique fire truck by the Courthouse, both brought to you by the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, who have been protecting the County Seat since 1928.

With photos from the late 1800’s through the late 1980’s, businesses will be displaying what the Town, the Wharf and former Mayors looked like; hosting people who grew up here or whose family had business here in Town; and talking about history of their building and their business. Continue your exploration of our local history by visiting the following participating locations:

Sharon’s Dragonfly Designs 41620 Courthouse Drive	Fuzzy Farmers Market 22696 Washington St.	St. Mary’s County Wine & Design 41610 Fenwick St.
The Good Earth Natural Foods Co. 41675 Park Ave.	Café des Artistes 41655 Fenwick St.	Crazy for Ewe 22715 Washington St.
Opal Art Gallery 41625 Park Avenue	Fenwick St. Used Books & Music 41655 Fenwick St.	Heritage Printing & Graphics 22725 Washington St.
Kevin’s Corner Kafe 41565 Lawrence Ave	Black Market Interiors 41665 Fenwick St. #15	Big Larry’s Eatery 22745 Washington St.
Ye Olde Towne Café 22685 Washington St.	BTB Coffee Bar & Speakeasy 41658 Fenwick St.	Caught My Eye 22760 Washington St
The Rex 22695 Washington St.	Quality St. Kitchens & Catering 41675 Fenwick St.	Port of Leonardtown Winery 23190 Newtowne Neck Rd.

Want even more history? Before you come to Town Friday night, visit the Town website’s “Visit Us!” page to download the historic walking tour brochure the walking tour podcast (www.leonardtown.somd.com).