

# Leonardtowntown BEACON

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

## Calendar of Events

**AUGUST 7-9**

"L'iL" Margaret's  
Bluegrass Festival  
Goddard Farm

**AUGUST 9**

Beach Party on the Square  
Leonardtowntown Square

**SEPTEMBER 13**

Maritime Festival  
Leonardtowntown Wharf

**SEPTEMBER 13**

Fall Follies  
Leonardtowntown Square

**SEPTEMBER 18-21**

SMC Fair  
SMC Fairgrounds

**SEPTEMBER 28**

Taste of St. Mary's  
Leonardtowntown Square

**OCTOBER 18 & 19**

SMC Oyster Festival  
SMC Fairgrounds

**OCTOBER 25**

Trick-or-Treat on the Square  
Leonardtowntown Square

**NOVEMBER 11**

Veterans Day Parade  
Leonardtowntown Square

**NOVEMBER 28**

Christmas on the Square  
Leonardtowntown Square

**NOVEMBER 28-29**

Christmas Festival  
Bell Motor Co. Showroom

*Come see  
what's new  
in historic  
Leonardtowntown!!!*

Leonardtowntown's Web Site:  
[www.leonardtowntown.somd.com](http://www.leonardtowntown.somd.com)

At Home in Leonardtown featuring . . .

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIR

There is a certain anticipation of the crisp Fall season and the St. Mary's County Fair. Preparing for the Fair is exciting to the many exhibitors who enter the fruits of their labor and eagerly hope to see a champion ribbon placed on their gigantic pumpkin, knitted afghan, hybrid tea rose, or on one of those adorable little bunnies that you just have to take home!

September 2008 commemorates the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Mary's County Fair in Leonardtown, a long-standing tradition of the St. Mary's County Fair Association.

The SMC Fair Association is an independent volunteer, non-profit organization that strives to showcase and preserve the rural heritage of St. Mary's County. Believed to be Maryland's largest county fair and fairgrounds operated solely by volunteers, the Association annually recruits hundreds of friends, family members, and community organizations to ensure its successful production. These dedicated volunteers donate thousands of hours and dollars each year to continue the Association's mission of improving agriculture, increasing public awareness of our agricultural community, and educating the general public on agricultural and home arts skills.

Fair Weekend is a busy one indeed! In these gas-conserving times, just think of the many perks you and your family can enjoy locally at the SMC Fair! A nominal admission permits you to see all the exhibits and enjoy a myriad of entertainment at no additional cost, with the exception of concessions and carnival rides.

- Wednesday finds the Fair volunteers on duty and a rush of people arriving to enter their exhibits. An exciting new exhibit class for 2008 is the Southern Maryland Workboat Challenge, whereby competitors build a workboat model limited to 30 inches total length.

- Early Thursday morning, fair judges are on board and awarding ribbon placements. The gates then open to the public at 3 PM. This is a great day to tour the grounds and check out the exhibits at their freshest. Crowning of the Queen of Tolerance highlights the evening's festivities.

- Friday is school and 4-H activities day. The schools in St. Mary's County close their doors and students through high school are admitted for free until 5 PM. Check out the speech contest and the students' unique display of scholastic exhibits. 4-H activities include horse and livestock shows,



Winning a yoke of Oxen at the St. Mary's County Fair



A tour inside the Thurston Baxter Farm Museum will bring back memories of old.



Competing in the Jousting Tournament. "Charge Sir Knight!"



Construction of one of the Fair's exhibit buildings in the 1950's.

Continued on page 10



# Come On Out!

## Downtown Tunes

Enjoy live music presented by local musicians on the Leonardtown Square! On Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, enjoy country and bluegrass music by Country Memories, No Class Today, and the Dance Hall Ghosts. On Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the rock-n-roll sounds of Bent Nickel, Geezer, and the 25th Hour Band will be heard. The tunes begin at 6 PM. Remember to bring your lawn chair or blanket, and be sure to check out the downtown restaurants and shops!

## National Night Out

A cookout and block party will be held at the Leonardtown Village and Leonard's Freehold communities to celebrate *National Night Out* on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM-9 PM. This nationwide event is designed to heighten crime and drug awareness, and strengthen police-community partnerships. For details visit [www.firstsheriff.com/nationalnightout.asp](http://www.firstsheriff.com/nationalnightout.asp) or call 301-475-9005.

## Beach Party on the Square



Scoop up your family and friends and head out to Leonardtown's annual "*Beach Party on the Square*" on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>! The fun begins at 4 PM and concludes at 9 PM. Performers include live music by "*Sons of Pirates*", Pam's Jr. Jazzercise, Mr. Magic, Dingbat the Clown, Daughters of Veda Dance Troupe and other entertainers! You can also enjoy sand volleyball, water slide, moon bounce, jump rope, hula-hoop and limbo contests, fire truck hose-downs, caricature artist, face painting, arts and crafts, kids sand box, classic cars, games, prizes, food, and much more! Contact the Town Office for details and to request a performance schedule.



## Mayor's Message

2008 marks Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To kick-off this milestone event, a rope cutting was held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the new Leonardtown Wharf Park. This was a wonderful occasion, and I'm looking forward to the future events celebrating our Tricentennial.

Travis Mattingly, a student at Leonardtown High School, was one of the winners in a recent student creative writing contest sponsored by Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee. Please read Travis' winning essay that I believe captures the character of Leonardtown – its history, present, and future.

*J. Harry Norris, III*  
J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor

*The only constant in history is change. But history shapes the future, no matter the circumstances; the past will always sculpt the future. History seems to repeat itself, a pattern, one might say it is coincidence. But, there is no coincidence; there is only the illusion of it. It is no coincidence that I am a Mattingly, that my family, has been in the county for at least 300 years and that I am still here today. Fate is what history determines, not just our own individual fates, but the fates of everyone. You, me, my friend, your brother, my sister are all alike in this circumstance, we are all connected and all share fates that are interdependent upon one another. In this moment our fates have intertwined, not just those here but those before us. We are all connected, all bound by this one fate, we all have endured this same history and we carry the reminders with us today.*

*Moakley Mattingly has come to represent to me everything that St. Mary's County was and often I feel as though that part has been lost. I've never seen films at the new Theater, I've never seen anyone walking into Duke's on Sunday mornings, and I've never seen a boat launch or the slag barge at Leonardtown Wharf. But at the same time, I can see the old Movie board over Cerre Grande, I can see a faded sign over Café Des Artistes, and now Leonardtown Wharf has been revamped and renovated to where those memories can be resurrected, where they can live. We only need know the history of where*



*we come from to be connected to it. More so it is our duty to learn the history of where we come from to be connected to it. More so it is our duty to learn it so as*



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*to grow, not to be limited by our past, but to use it as a foundation. In that way we become better people, a better county and a better nation. I implore you not to forget where you came because then meaning can be given to those who were before us. Simply by remembering this Tricentennial of Leonardtown, we are all cognizant of this one past, and in this moment, despite the vast differences of every individual, we are unified. This connection of souls, is our history. My history is seeing Moakley Street and Singletree and knowing where these names came from, who the people are behind the names. So even though I might never see or speak to you again, we have both come to share this history, more than dates and places, but people. So this Tricentennial of Leonardtown isn't homage to the Square or even to the Wharf, but rather the memories of those who have lived and died there. This place is a testament to Moakley Mattingly, to every person you remember, and all those who remember us and this day. We are not confined to this moment, or any other future moment, because we have the future. The future is what we make it, and above all, when we make it, I ask you to remember our history and remember Leonardtown.*

By: Travis Mattingly





### **"L'il" Margaret's Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Festival**

Kick back and unwind with Bluegrass and good old-time music! This annual music festival will be held August 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> at the Goddard Farm off Fairgrounds Road in Leonardtown. For tickets, a performance schedule, directions, overnight camping, and other details call 301-475-8191.

### **"Fall Follies" Crafts Show**

Find arts, crafts, pottery, ceramics, baskets, woodwork, woodcarvings, stained glass, jewelry, quilts, paintings, needlework, and other handcrafted items in the Leonardtown Square on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM-3 PM! For more information, call The Crafts Guild of St. Mary's, 301-997-1644, or visit their crafts shop at 26005 Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown, behind the Maryland Antiques Center. *Rain date: Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.*

### **St. Mary's County Fair**

The St. Mary's County Fair Association presents its 62<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration of St. Mary's rural life and heritage Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at the County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown. The Fair Parade is on Saturday at 10:30 AM. Exhibit entry deadlines and details, entertainment schedules, admission and other useful information are found in the 2008 Fair Catalog or call 301-475-2256.

### **Walk a Mile in My Shoes**

Join in this 5-K walk on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to support the St. Vincent De-Paul Society. The walk begins at 9 AM at St. Aloysius Church and will proceed into downtown Historic Leonardtown. For registration information or to make a pledge, go to [www.walkforthe poor.com](http://www.walkforthe poor.com) or call Patty Belanger at 301-904-7990.

### **Taste of St. Mary's**

This year's annual "Taste of St. Mary's" will be held on the Square in downtown Leonardtown on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5 PM. Patrons can purchase sample sized portions of fine cuisine served by local restaurants and caterers in St. Mary's County. While in Town, enjoy the afternoon with a stroll around Historic Leonardtown, taking in the sites, shopping, checking out the new Leonardtown Wharf, and being a part of the community! For more information on this event, contact the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce at 301-737-3001 or visit [www.smcchamber.com](http://www.smcchamber.com).

### **Light the Night Walk**

Southern Maryland's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Light the Night Walk" will be held on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Governmental Center. Check-in begins at 5:30 PM, with the walk beginning at 7 PM. For registration and details, contact Katie Smith at 410-527-0220 or e-mail [katie.smith@lls.org](mailto:katie.smith@lls.org). Your participation will support the Maryland Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in their research for better therapies and cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

### **Veterans Day Parade Now Forming**

Entries are now being accepted for participants in the 2008 annual *Veterans Day Parade* in Leonardtown! This year's parade will be held on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10 AM on Washington Street. To obtain a parade entry form or to volunteer with parade line-up, contact Tom Warren, the Parade Organizer at [tom\\_warren55@hotmail.com](mailto:tom_warren55@hotmail.com) or the Town Office at 301-475-9791. Parade entry forms must be received no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Blood Pressure & Cholesterol Screenings**

Look for the Health Connections Van in the Town Square every second Wednesday of the month, from Noon-3:00 p.m. for free blood pressure, cholesterol, and PSA screenings. Upcoming dates are Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Call Health Connections at 301-475-6019 for details and other services.

### **Summer Fun at the Leonardtown Library!**

Kids and parents alike will want to visit the Leonardtown Library this summer. Highlights include summer reading clubs, book discussions, plant clinics, special events and more! For a complete list of the library's summer events, go to [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org) or stop by and pick up a brochure.



### **Open Skate Night at Leonard Hall Recreation Center**



Looking for a fun activity with plenty of exercise? Lace up those roller skates and come to the Leonard Hall Recreation Center on Saturday evenings between 5PM - 8PM or Monday evenings 6PM - 8PM.

Admission fee is \$3 per person, and all ages are welcome. Bring your own skates, or rent skates for \$2.50. For more information call Recreation and Parks at 301-475-4200, ext. 1800.

#### **Mayor**

J. Harry Norris, III

#### **Council Members**

Walter Wise, *Vice-President*  
Daniel W. Burris  
Thomas R. Collier  
Robert C. Combs  
Leslie E. Roberts

#### **Town Office Staff**

Laschelle Miller, *Town Administrator*  
Rebecca Sothoron, *Treasurer*  
Jackie Post, *Fiscal Clerk*  
Teri Dimsey, *Executive Secretary*  
Jeannine Peele, *Town Secretary*  
DeAnn Adler, *Plans Reviewer*  
Julie Lemmon, *Events Coordinator*  
Linda Shepherd, *Public Relations*  
Barbara Dotson, *Grants Writer*  
Mark Grant, *Capital Project Coordinator*  
Stephen Simonds, *Town Deputy*

#### **Utilities Staff**

John "Jay" Johnson, *Superintendent*  
Timmy Lacey, *Asst. Superintendent*  
Joe Bucior, *Operator*  
Greg Owen, *Operator*

#### **Planning & Zoning**

##### **Board Members**

Jean Moulds, *Chair*  
Frank Fearn, *Vice-Chair*  
John "Jack" Candela  
Heather Earhart

##### **Board of Appeals**

Dr. Herbert Winnik, *Chair*  
Jerome DuVal  
Dr. William Icenhower  
Darren Meyer  
Joan Ritchie

#### **Meetings**

**Town Council** - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8

**Planning Commission** - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15

#### **Contact the Town:**

##### **Commissioners of Leonardtown**

*Proffitt Building*  
41660 Courthouse Drive  
P.O. Box 1  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

**Phone:** 301-475-9791

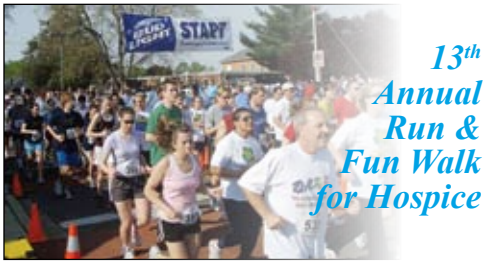
**Fax:** 301-475-5350

**E-Mail:** [Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net](mailto:Leonardtown.commissioners@verizon.net)

**Website:** [Leonardtown.somd.com](http://Leonardtown.somd.com)







## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Run & Fun Walk for Hospice

This year's Hospice Run/Walk raised over \$50,000 to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's and the new St. Mary's Hospice House. Photos and race results from the April 19, 2008 Run/Walk can be found at [www.runforhospice.org](http://www.runforhospice.org).

## Town of Leonardtown Among 15 Recipients of the 2008 Public Health Hero Award

St. Mary's County Health Officer, Dr. William B. Icenhower, MD, MPH presents Mayor Norris and the Town Administrator Laschelle Miller with a 2008 Public Health Hero Award during a Recognition Breakfast on April 10<sup>th</sup>.



The award recognizes Leonardtown's recycling program as being friendly to the environment, and ultimately having an effect on the stability and health of our global community. Town residents Karen and Tom Russell nominated the Town for its promotion of recycling among Town residents and businesses over the past 15 years, adding residential curbside recycling pickup to make it easy for residents to lessen their impact on the environment, and making recycling containers accessible at all its community events.

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## Hoping for A Glimpse of The Pope

Jamie and Lisa Thomas of Leonardtown were among the group of 105 St. Aloysius Catholic Church parishioners bused to Washington, DC on April 17<sup>th</sup> for the once in a lifetime opportunity of participating in the celebratory Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at National Stadium. Also attending were members of the church's children's choir, who were invited to sing hymns during this historic occasion.



## A Stormy Earth Day Celebration

The exhibits were in place, activities were just beginning, and Bonnie Toney was painting flowers on this young lady's face, when sounds of thunder and flashes of lightning prompted the cancellation of Leonardtown's 2008 Earth Day Celebration. A hearty thank you to all the performers, volunteers, sponsors and participants who came out to support the event! Remember, you can help protect our environment and our planet everyday by conserving energy, cutting back on waste and water, recycling, and helping to preserve wildlife.



## Spring Fling XXIII Classic Car Show



Spectators enjoyed socializing with friends and admiring classic and antique cars and trucks parked around the Town Square during the 2008 "Spring Fling". The St. Mary's Rod & Classic Club sponsors this event, with proceeds to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's.

## Excellence in Art Award

Congratulations to Theresa Ann Tenaglia, a recent St. Mary's College of Maryland graduate, who was presented the Joseph M. Gough, Jr. Excellence in Art Award on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Bill Sturgis, current Regional President of PNC Bank, presented the award, which is named in memory of former bank president, Joseph M. Gough, Jr. Also in attendance to recognize Theresa's achievement, was Salvatore Meringolo, St. Mary's College of Maryland VP for Development.



## Remembering.....

These words of heartfelt gratitude to our Veterans were found on the Veterans Monument in the Town Square this past Memorial Day.

To an American Soldier,  
I never knew you personally,  
but want to write you this  
note of thanks on this  
Memorial Day 2008.  
You willingly laid down  
your future, your life for so  
many you never knew. You  
saw the war when your country  
asked you to make the  
sacrifice. You left family  
friends, your future to ensure  
that I and other Americans  
would be safe in ours.  
There are not enough words  
to adequately express my gratitude  
for your sacrifice. May you  
rest in peace and be assured  
of a mission accomplished. I  
only hope and pray that all  
Americans will live lives  
worthy of your sacrifice.  
A Grateful America  
Greater love has no man than this that  
a man lay down his life for his friends  
2008 5/27/08

## Pausing for the Pledge!

Students of the Piney Point Elementary School Chorus set up to sing and the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department prepare to raise the massive flag just before storms forced the 2008 Flag Day celebrations inside the Leonard Hall Recreation Center.





# Highlights

## Local Flavor, Local Fare

Fresh from the farm to Leonardtown Square. On Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, many came to the Town Square to sample foods and wines, all prepared with ingredients fresh from Southern Maryland's finest farms, waterways, and vineyards. Proceeds from this event supported the Patuxent Habitat for Humanity. Pictured here is Chef Loic of Café des Artistes' serving his scrumptious oysters café.



## Patriotic Concert in the Square

Great weather and a fantastic crowd complimented the patriotic sounds of this July 2<sup>nd</sup> pre Independence Day concert presented by the Air National Guard Band of the Mid-Atlantic. The band is stationed at Fort Indiantown Gap in Anville, Pennsylvania.

## Leonardtown Winery Moves Forward

On June 10, 2008 a Memorandum of Understanding was finalized between the St. Mary's County Commissioners and the Commissioners of Leonardtown regarding establishment of a winery in Leonardtown. The project will provide local grape growers an opportunity to process their crops to produce local wine. The winery will be located on Rt. 5 at the Port of Leonardtown, where the Town is also developing a public park along McIntosh Run. The site was an old SHA facility with access off of Rt. 243, Newtowne Neck Road.

Local grape growers have formed a cooperative, Southern Maryland Winegrowers, which will operate the facility once the construction is complete. The project is slated for opening in Fall of 2009.

## Construction Begins on Leonardtown's Streetscape Project

Leonardtown's "Streetscape Project" is now underway. This revitalization project will strengthen community safety

for vehicle and pedestrian functions, and provide aesthetic enhancements to improve commercial viability and quality of life along the corridor of Washington Street and Fenwick Street. During the construction phase, we thank you for your patience as temporary traffic patterns or other inconveniences may be experienced. To stay informed of the streetscape progress, check the Town's website, contact the Project Manager, Greta Hartman at 301-997-1314, or e-mail [ghartman@sha.state.md.us](mailto:ghartman@sha.state.md.us).

## Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad

The 2008 officers of the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad are corrected as follows: Danny Bowles, President; Bucky Taylor, Vice-President; Jean Wathen, Treasurer; and Julie Wathen, Recording Secretary. Officers of the Rescue Squad Auxiliary are Candy Chesser, President; Genny Taylor, Vice-President; Debbie Schultz, Secretary; and Ella Neal, Treasurer. The service of all our emergency volunteers is greatly appreciated!

Have you ever thought of volunteering as a way you can help serve your community? The Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad offers free training in a variety of aspects, including EMT, Paramedic and Driver – plus you will make many new friends! The Auxiliary needs volunteers as well, and is always looking for new ideas and help with fundraising to offset the rising costs that keep the rescue squad going. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, contact the LVRS at 301-475-8509, or email the Chief, Jaime Weber at [Chief@lvrs.org](mailto:Chief@lvrs.org), the President, Danny Bowles at [President@lvrs.org](mailto:President@lvrs.org) or stop by the Squad on Lawrence Avenue any Tuesday night at 7 PM. The volunteers would love to show you around!

The Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary is discontinuing their annual "Festival of Trees" to allow the Hospice of St. Mary's to sponsor that event. The Auxiliary-sponsored event has been renamed "Christmas Festival" and will be held November 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> at Bell Motor Company. The theme of this year's "Christmas Festival" is in honor of our military service men and women. More information will be posted on Leonardtown's website, or visit <http://www.lvrs.org/>.

## Leonardtown Election Results May 6, 2008

Re-elected to serve as Leonardtown's Mayor, was J. Harry Norris, III. Mr. Norris has served consecutively as the Town's Mayor since 1995. He also served on the Leonardtown Town Council from May 1971 to May 1981, and during that time, served as Council President from 1977-1981. His primary focus continues to be the downtown revitalization and development of the waterfront park at Leonardtown Wharf. Mr. Norris values both his position as Mayor, and the prosperity that the Town of Leonardtown enjoys today.

Also re-elected was Walter Wise, who will serve another term on the Town Council. Mr. Wise has served consecutively on the Town Council since being elected to that position in 1995. He spends many hours overseeing street and road projects, and is proud of the many revitalization efforts that the Town has accomplished over the years.



Daniel W. Burrell was elected to serve his first term on the Town Council. A Leonardtown native, Dan served as LBA President for the past six years and on the town council (1986-87), operates an insurance business in Town, and is a member of the Leonardtown Rotary. Dan is interested in promoting Leonardtown's commerce while maintaining Leonardtown's "Home-town Charm".

Summer 2008

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# Celebrating Leonardtown

Grand Opening

## Leonardtown Wharf

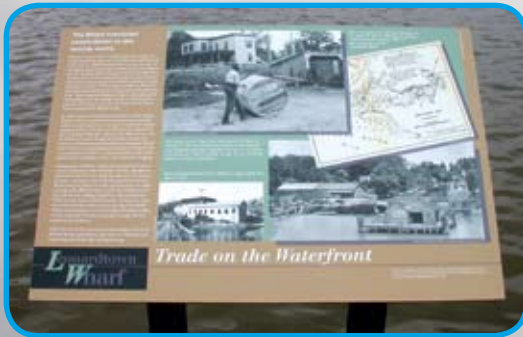
Held May 12



*A Rope Cutting Ceremony kicked off the celebration.*



*The Stokel family enjoy a leisurely stroll along the promenade in the newly opened park.*



*Along the promenade, 4 historic signs tell the story of Leonardtown Wharf.*

*Mike Aretz and his children enjoy a canoe demonstration by McIntosh Outfitters at the Grand Opening.*



*A special thank you to Leonardtown Volunteer Fireman Roger Mattingly for putting together this spectacular collage of historic Leonardtown pictures to commemorate Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday.*



*Leonardtown natives Kennedy Gibson share stories about Leonardtown.*



# Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Opening of

## Wharf Public Park

May 16, 2008

The Leonardtown Wharf was held on May 16, 2008 much to the delight of all. Since its opening, a bounty of visitors has enjoyed the waterfront public park every day. The passive nature of the park offers beautiful waterfront views and breathtaking views of Breton Bay, read Historic Leonardtown signage and educational signage, take a walk, picnic, walk a dog, rent a canoe or kayak.

*Environmental educational signage explaining the importance of our newly restored wetlands at Leonardtown Wharf.*



Dear Mayor J. Harris Norris and Friends of Leonardtown,  
I was born in Leonardtown, Maryland on May 13, 1928. I lived with my family, Bernard and Mildred Spalding and my three brothers, Bernie, Eddie and Bobby at the Old Leonardtown Wharf in the early 1940's.  
On May 13, 2008 I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with great joy and much gratitude and I am so pleased that on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the town celebrates the grand opening of the Leonardtown Wharf Public Waterfront Park. I am filled with wonderful memories of living at this site at an earlier time in its history. Looking back over the years, I have shared with life-long friends so many sights, sounds, activities and events that are special to the "wharf", some of these include:

- The view from the wharf of beautiful Breton Bay
- Watching the "log boat" come to dock, barges of gravel making their way to the wharf
- Watermen coming by boat to get ice for their catches - crabs and fish
- Fishermen hoping for a catch at the wharf
- Visiting yachts docking at the wharf and going "uptown" for groceries or visits with friends and family
- After supper, townfolk making their daily strolls "down the hill" to enjoy the water and stop along the way to chat with neighbor
- Sitting at the wharf and watching the moonlight on the bay or a sheet of rain as a storm came across the bay
- Watching the blinking buoy light at night or a beautiful sunset and feeling a gentle cooling breeze blow off of the water

What memories - what joy they bring!  
I want to convey my gratitude to you and the people who are responsible for preserving this St. Mary's County legacy. May the grand opening of the Leonardtown Wharf Public Waterfront Park herald the start of beautiful memories for a new generation. Again, I give you my heartfelt thanks to all of you for having the vision and appreciation to preserve this historical site.

*Virginia S. Gibson*

*Refreshments were provided for the celebration compliments of the many wonderful restaurants who now call Leonardtown home. A beautiful cake showing the tricentennial logo was designed by Cakes by Tracey.*



*Abell and Virginia Gibson at Leonardtown Wharf.*



*Summer 2008*

*Photos courtesy of: Frank Marquart*

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# More Activities Celebrating Leonardtown's



## The Showboat's Comin' "Come Aboard...."

To Learn About This Fascinating  
Part of Leonardtown's History.

An Exhibition on the James Adams Floating Theatre and Its Visits to Leonardtown, 1915-1935 presented by the St. Mary's County Historical Society, will be on display at Tudor Hall, 41680 Tudor Place, Leonardtown, from September 8<sup>th</sup> - October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Special events regarding the exhibit will also be held during the Maritime Festival on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Tudor Hall. Did you know that Edna Ferber's book, Show Boat, and subsequent Broadway musicals and movies, were based on the Adams floating theatre? Any county residents who either attended performances on the Adams floating theatre or who have memorabilia regarding the theatre, please contact Susan Wolfe, Executive Director, St. Mary's County Historical Society, at 301-475-2467 or by e-mail at [smchsdirector@md.metrocast.net](mailto:smchsdirector@md.metrocast.net).



## Student Art and Essay Contest

Recently, the Commissioners of Leonardtown solicited artworks of elementary, middle, high school and college students. The contest, entitled "*History of Leonardtown...Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*" requested the artworks to reflect on fond memories, special events, historical facts, legends, family heritage and/or friendships in relationship to Leonardtown. Six artworks were selected as winners, and those students were presented with a \$100 savings bond during the June 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting for their winning art.

Many enjoyed seeing the original artworks that were exhibited during the Grand Opening of the Leonardtown Wharf Public Park. If you would like to see the students' artworks, stop by the Leonardtown Library, where they will be displayed through the remainder of 2008.

### ART WINNERS

**Madison Joy Ellis**

Leonardtoun Elementary School  
Watercolor – Duke Building

**Samantha Chan**

Leonardtoun Elementary School  
Painting – the Wharf

**Elizabeth Pyles**

Margaret Brent Middle School  
Painting – County Seat & Pet Store

**Nick Webster**

Great Mills High School  
Photograph – Café Des Artistes sidewalk

### ESSAY WINNERS

**Allison Guy**

Leonardtoun Elementary  
Essay – Poetry

**Travis Mattingly**

Leonardtoun High School  
Essay – Writing





# 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook

Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook will be available in August. This cookbook will not only feature tasty recipes from our many natives and friends, but will also highlight some of the Town's history. Thanks to all who submitted their favorite recipes!

### 4-Part Collector Series

The "County Times" is featuring Leonardtown with an informational pullout in four issues of its newspaper, each highlighting a different segment of Leonardtown. The series offers accounts of the olden times mingled with today, and would be a great memoir for your history collection!

- **May** issue: Leonardtown Today, Businesses & Revitalization
- **July** issue: Services and Government
- **October** issue: Volunteers, Churches, and Organizations
- **December** issue: People and Personal Memories

### Leonardtown History Lecture Series

A Friday Night Lecture Series highlighting Leonardtown's History will be hosted by the College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown campus. Each lecture will begin at 7 PM. Dates and lecturers are as follows:

**August 1<sup>st</sup>:** Pete Himmelheber

**September 5<sup>th</sup>:** Mayor Norris

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Ernie Bell

### Maritime Festival

Join us for a "Maritime Festival" at Leonardtown Wharf Park on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-3 PM! This special family day will offer water related exhibits, kayaking, a sailing regatta, and other maritime-themed activities. Festival-goers will also enjoy live music and performances by the Newtowne Players.

### Christmas Open House

Deck the Halls.....You're invited to a Town Hall "Christmas Open House" on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Additional details will be made available on our web site and in the Fall/Winter Beacon Newsletter.

### Anniversary Postmark

On Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Leonardtown Post Office will postmark your envelopes with a one-day Leonardtown Anniversary Postmark featuring Leonardtown's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo.

### Tornado Preparedness

Citizens are urged to be both aware and prepared for weather emergencies, particularly tornado events. If there is a Tornado Warning for any area in St. Mary's County, the county's Emergency Communications staff will activate Fire & Rescue Sirens with a Take Cover signal. The Tornado Warning signal will last for 13 cycles, making it significantly different from a fire or rescue call signal. Please be aware of the monthly system test on the first Saturday of every month at noon, and do not confuse it with an actual Tornado Warning. Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a tornado hazard:

- \* A Tornado means a tornado is possible in your area. You should monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and television news outlets for the latest developments.
- \* A Tornado means a tornado has been sighted and is actually occurring. You should take shelter in a basement or center room of your home, immediately. Vehicles and mobile homes are not considered safe during tornadic conditions.

For more information, preparedness steps, radio stations, etc., contact the SMC Department of Public Safety at 301-475-4200 x2124 or visit <http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/Emergencycomm/tornado.asp>.

### Mosquito Control

With the wet spring, these pesky little insects are bound to breed and bite! The Town, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, provides mosquito spray services for its residents and businesses within its corporate limits. The Mosquito Control Program relies on surveys and monitoring of the larval and adult mosquito populations to coordinate control activities. Control techniques include breeding source reduction, public education, biological control and insecticide applications. For information about mosquitoes, mosquito-borne diseases, or Maryland's mosquito control program, contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Mosquito Control Program for Southern Maryland at 301-373-4263 or visit their web site at [www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/mosquito\\_control/](http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/mosquito_control/) or call the Town Office.

### Obey The Posted Speed Limits

In an attempt to reduce traffic accidents and slow speeding drivers, our Town Deputy, Steve Simonds, will randomly place a VMS Board and conduct laser operations throughout the Town. Areas of greatest concentration will be along Washington Street into the downtown and on Point Lookout Road between the intersections of Route 243 and Route 245. Be aware of, and obey posted speed limits. You not only avoid a citation and fine, but travel along our highways will be safer and the occurrence of life-threatening accidents will be lessened.

### Trash Pickup and Recycling Reminders

**Residential trash** is collected every Tuesday and Friday. Trash is accepted in 30-gallon cans with lids, cans on wheels, or totes issued by Goode Trash Removal. To guarantee collection, trash

should be set out the night before or by 6:00 a.m. on the day of pick-up. Bagged leaves set out by Town residents will also be picked up on regularly scheduled collection days, but is limited to 5 bags per household, per collection day. Town residents wishing further information on Leonardtown trash service, or to obtain a container, contact the Town Office.

The next quarterly **bulk trash** pickup dates will be on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Bulk trash will be collected at the same time as your regular trash, so please ensure all your items are placed at the curb together.

**Residential recycling** pickup of old newspapers, glass bottles, jars, metal and aluminum cans, and approved plastic bottles is made on Thursdays. To guarantee collection, your recycling tote should be set out the night before or by 6:00 a.m. the day of pick-up. Remember to make recycling a part of your daily routine. For more information on recycling or to receive a recycling tote, contact the Town Office or check our web site at [www.leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.leonardtown.somd.com).

Normal trash and recycling pickups will be made during the week of the Labor Day holiday. For further information on trash service, recycling, or to obtain a recycling container, contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791.

### Change in Utility Charges

On or about September 30<sup>th</sup>, utility customers will receive the first quarterly bill for fiscal year 2009. On April 14, 2008, the Town Council approved revised rates for water and sewer services. Residential sewer rates will increase from \$90.54 to \$92.10 per quarter, and water rates will increase from \$42.20 to \$43.04 per quarter.

Water charges for commercial customers are based on actual metered usage, and the water rates for commercial customers were also increased by 2%. The sewer rate for commercial customers is \$92.10 per equivalent dwelling unit.

Trash service charges are in the process of being calculated. Those rates will be posted to the Town's website as soon as available.

A complete copy of the Approved FY 2009 Budget can be found on the Leonardtown website at [www.leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.leonardtown.somd.com). Click on the Town Government link.

### Together We Can Conserve Water!

It's that time of year when water conservation efforts are so important to avoid future water restrictions. By applying simple changes in our daily routines, such as the suggestions that follow, you can contribute to protecting our water supply:

For more water-conservation ideas, go online to [http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Water\\_Conservation/Water\\_Factsheet/index.asp](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Water_Conservation/Water_Factsheet/index.asp) and download a copy of the MD Department of the Environment's "Water Conservation Fact Sheet".



**2008  
SMC FAIR SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, September 18**

Gates open at 3 PM  
Exhibit buildings open at 4 PM  
Exhibit buildings close at 9 PM

**Friday, September 19**

Gates open at 9 AM  
Exhibit buildings close at 9 PM

**Saturday, September 20**

Gates open at 9 AM  
Exhibit buildings close at 9 PM

**Sunday, September 21**

Gates open at 9 AM  
Fair closes at 6 PM

**Admission:**

**Daily:** \$5 Adults  
\$1 children 6 to 12  
Children under 6 free  
**Season Passes:** \$9 Adults  
\$2 Children 6 to 12

**Parking:**

Free parking on the Fairgrounds lot. Free shuttle bus service provided by the St. Mary's County Department of Transportation from the Governmental Center to the Fairgrounds.

**Contact:**

42455 Fairgrounds Road  
P.O. Box 243  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-2256  
[www.smcfair.somd.com](http://www.smcfair.somd.com)

**Fair Catalogs:**

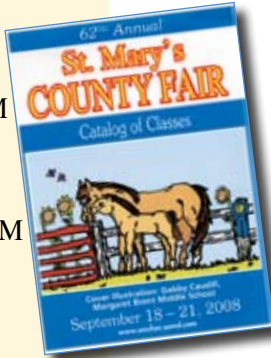
Will be published in August edition of The Enterprise, and will also be available at the St. Mary's County Libraries.

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIR**

*Continued from page 1*

and judging contests. The day offers plenty of entertainment, the carnival is in full swing, and the crowd awaits the evening's lightweight horse pull.

- Saturday's featured event is the Fair Parade at 10:30 AM. Everyone loves a parade, and with the sounds of school bands, dance and majorette troupes,



*The 2008 SMC Fair Catalog Cover: This year's cover illustration was designed by Gabby Caudill, student of Margaret Brent Middle School. The cover illustration is selected among entries of St. Mary's County school students in a contest that commenced in 1959. The design is also imprinted on the annual SMC Fair T-Shirt.*



*The First SMC Fair Catalog Cover of 1947*

cars, trucks, and the excitement of kids catching candy thrown from decorated floats, who can blame them? Numerous activities and entertainment round out the day, including the jousting tournament, 4-H livestock auction, and the heavy weight horse pull.

- Sunday is family day. This is your chance to show the world your little one in the annual Baby Contest, listen to gospel music and enjoy the horse show. As the Fair comes to a close, exhibitors arrive to retrieve their goods and volunteers begin cleanup while pondering thoughts about the next year's Fair.

Many of the SMC Fair volunteers have served on the Board of Directors over 50 years. Since its inception in 1947, the office of Fair Board President has changed hands 16 times. Taking the position in 1984, John Richards makes 2008 his 25<sup>th</sup> year as the Board's president. Members of the SMC Fair Board manage the Fairgrounds all year long. Last year, over 50,000 people attended the SMC Fair. An additional 40,000 people are expected on the fairgrounds as the Association hosts other major St. Mary's County events annually, including Friends of the Library Book Sale, Christmas in April, Cole Brothers Circus, SMC Spring Festival, SMC Crab Festival, So. Md. Livestock Expo, Freedom Fest, Cub Scout Week, SMC Oyster Festival, Shop With a Cop, and monthly Rabies Clinics offered by SMAWL.



*Norris Shepherd, Farm and Garden Superintendent, stands by entries of pumpkins, gourds and tobacco.*



*These 4-H'ers enjoy showing their championship steers.*



*A gathering of "All Queens" during the Fair's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2006.*



*Ann Richards and Shannon Goddard repaint the Fairgrounds' gigantic watermelon landmark that can be seen from the highway.*

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*Leonardtown  
Fair*



Revenues received by the SMC Fair Association include a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, carnival operations, admissions, and rental fees. These revenues support costs of the fair, which include building maintenance, grounds upkeep, electricity, sewer, and premium awards. The most recent building projects include the farm building, arts & crafts building, and auditorium. Construction of the new auditorium was accomplished through a partnership of the SMC Fair Association and the Dr. James Forrest Career and Technology Center.

The St. Mary's County Fair is a treasure chest of priceless gems, shining with a brilliance of what it represents - opportunities to learn about and preserve our agricultural heritage and its relevancy to our life today. As the basic traditions of our early agricultural heritage are

fading away, it is important to recollect the industrious work of our ancestors. A visit to the SMC Fair will rekindle memories and assure that many facets of the "simple life", like sewing, home cooking, gardening, horseback riding, and raising cattle and swine, still exist in our world today. Perhaps you're a regular St. Mary's County Fair volunteer, participant, or visitor -- maybe you've visited at least once in your lifetime -- or perhaps 2008 will be your first visit -- when the day is done, you'll be glad you came, and when you return each year, you will still see the same community pride and some of the same volunteers time and time again!

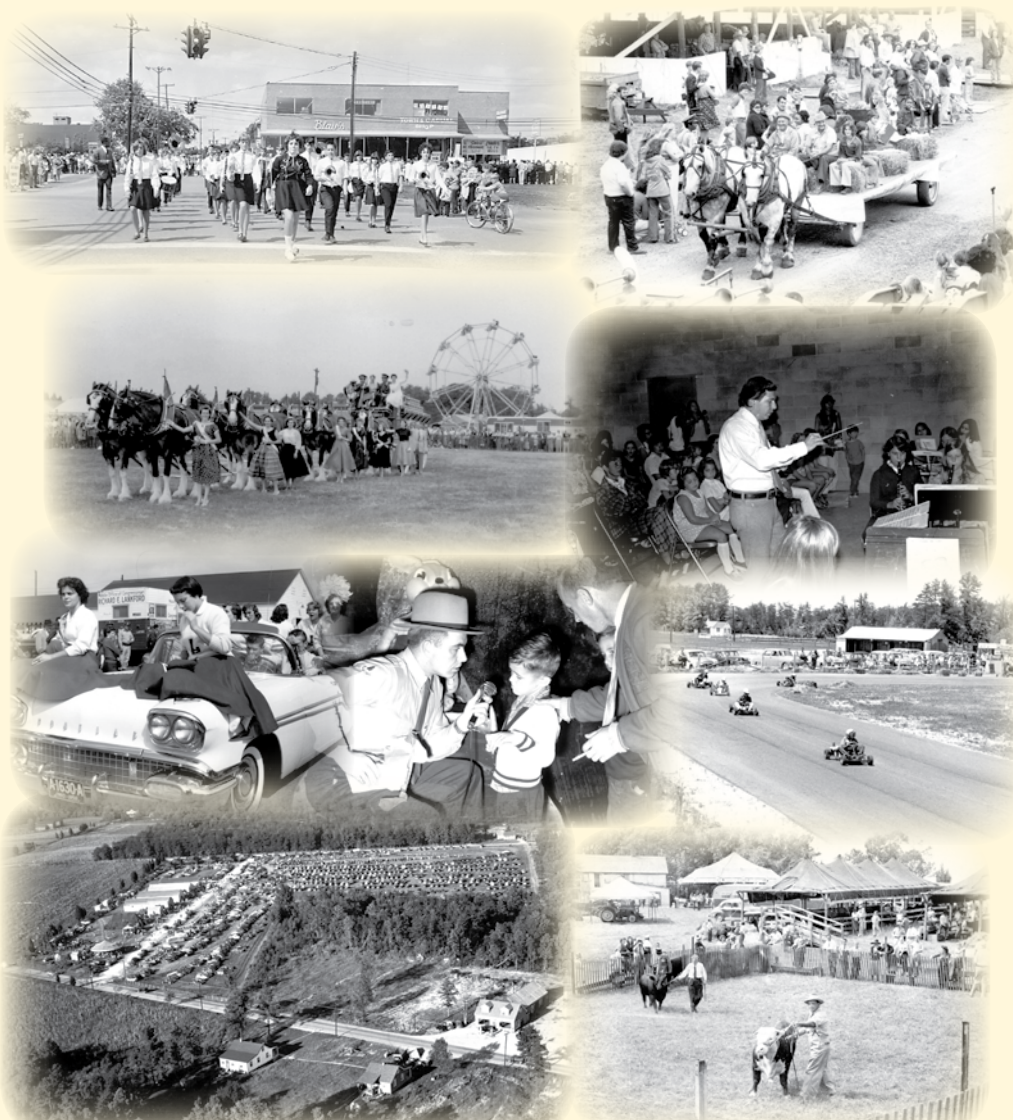
## *A Brief History of the Fair in St. Mary's County*

A snapshot of the history of the Fair in St. Mary's County reveals that the first County Fair was developed by the Xaverian Brothers in 1912, and held on the grounds of the Leonard Hall School property in Leonardtown for several years. Following an apparent period of lapse, the St. Mary's County Fair Association, Inc. was established in 1947. The County Fair was then held on the grounds of Camp Calvert on Breton Bay in Leonardtown (now St. Mary's Ryken High School). The grounds for today's SMC Fair are simply referred to "The Fairgrounds", a parcel of property on MD Route 5 (Point Lookout Road) two miles south of downtown Leonardtown. These grounds have been home to the SMC Fair since 1949, when the St. Mary's County Government leased the land to the SMC Fair Association for the purpose of building a permanent home for the SMC Fair. For a time, there were two SMC Fair organizations. In 1949, the first Black Fair was held at the Cardinal Gibbons High School in Ridge. The Black Fair later moved to the Bernard Somerville property in Loveville, and then in the 1950's to the current Fairgrounds property, conducted on the subsequent week of the White Fair, until integration with the SMC Fair Association in the early 1960's. During its era, the Black Fair also provided public awareness and education of agriculture and home arts skills.

*A comprehensive account of the St. Mary's County Fair can be found in "The Heritage - History of the St. Mary's County Fair, A County in Transition". The history and personal recollections in this book were compiled by the 1988-1989 Leonardtown High School publications students and sponsor. While copies of this fascinating book are limited, the SMC Fair Association is currently working to incorporate it onto its web site.*



*Summer 2008*







# Town Tidbits

## First Fridays in Leonardtown

Are you looking for a place where folks can socialize, enjoy dining out, shopping, local art and entertainment? Then come and rediscover the treasures of historic Leonardtown! Mark your calendar for the first Friday of each month, when many Leonardtown businesses, art galleries, restaurants, antique, flower, gift and specialty shops stay open late, offering an evening of artist receptions, specials, discounts and menu items. Participating First Friday merchants can be found in and around the Town Square on Washington Street, Fenwick Street and Park Avenue, the Maryland Antiques Center complex at 26005 Point Lookout Road, Breton Market Place at 25470 Point Lookout Road and Room With A Brew at 23976 Point Lookout Road next to the Fairgrounds. For an individualized list of



“First Friday” participants, visit [www.leonardtownfirstfriday.blogspot.com](http://www.leonardtownfirstfriday.blogspot.com) or check the Town’s website.

## Leonardtwn Business Association

Congratulations to Dan Norris, who has stepped up from LBA Vice-President to serve as President, following Dan Burris’ election to the Leonardtown Council. The LBA is also proud to welcome its latest members, Art in Wire, Bell Motor Company, Corbel’s, Hannah! Boutique, Marcy’s Towne Florist, McKays Food and Pharmacy, On A Roll - Tyler Radaz, Papa John’s Pizza, State Farm Insurance - Josh Mesh and Osborne Books - Kristy Myers.

Membership in the LBA provides many opportunities to showcase your business and connect with other business partners. For information on joining the LBA, contact Dan Norris at [dnorris@drnenvironmental solutions.com](mailto:dnorris@drnenvironmental solutions.com)

## “Kevin’s Corner Kafe” Open for Lunch

Kevin, Barbara, and Christopher Thompson invite you to “Kevin’s Corner Kafe”, where you will find a salad bar and Kevin’s signature crab cakes, shrimp salad, and seafood chowder! Located in the newly renovated building at 41565 Park Avenue, *Kevin’s Corner Kafe* currently serves lunch Monday-Friday from 11 AM-3 PM, and dinner on Friday between 5 PM-8 PM. Both eat-in and carryout service, a party room and party platters are available. 301-997-1260.



## “Art in Wire” Jewelry

Specializing in fine jewelry, handmade by Balbina Meyer, “Art in Wire” is located at 41685 Fenwick Street in downtown Leonardtown, on the second floor of the building that also houses “P.S. It’s All Good”. To find your original and one-of-a-kind pieces, “Art In Wire” is open Tuesday-Saturday and welcomes your visit. 240-538-4571.

## Brewing Grounds under New Ownership

The Town welcomes Jennifer Blake and Valerie Trader as the new owners of this popular coffee shop. For a great cup of coffee, fabulous smoothies, pastries, and salads, visit the *Brewing Grounds* at 41657 Fenwick Street in downtown Leonardtown. 301-475-8040.

## Hannah! Boutique

*Hannah! Boutique* specializes in unique upscale clothing and accessories for women. Pam Harmon looks forward to your visit and helping you find that perfect outfit. Pam will also place special orders just for you. *Hannah! Boutique* is located at 26005 Point Lookout Road in the Maryland Antiques Center, and is open 7 days a week from 10 AM - 5 PM. 301-997-8583.

# Leonardtwn BEACON

Commissioners of Leonardtown

P.O. Box 1  
Proffitt Building  
41660 Courthouse Drive  
Leonardtwn, Maryland 20650

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LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650

## Town Office - Holiday Closings

The Office of the Leonardtown Commissioners will be closed for the following holidays:

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| September 1 | Labor Day              |
| November 11 | Veteran’s Day          |
| November 27 | Thanksgiving Day       |
| November 28 | Day after Thanksgiving |
| December 25 | Christmas Day          |

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### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

301-475-9791

Fax: 301-475-5350

Leonardtwn’s Web Site: [www.leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.leonardtown.somd.com)