



Leonardtwn Beacon

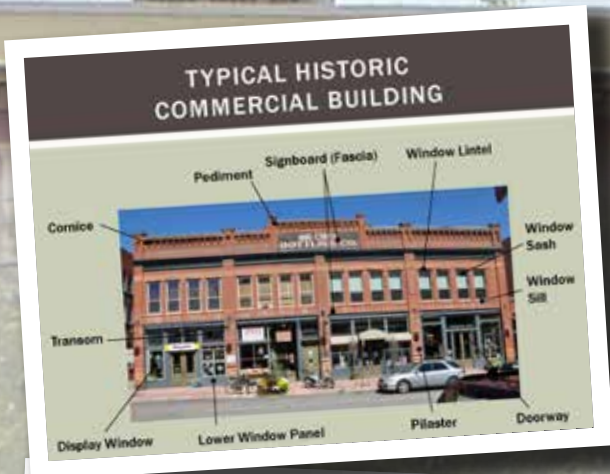
First Impressions Count What Your Façade Says About You!

If you were asked about why you find a building iconic, you will judge it by its façade – the first impression of any building. The façade sets the tone for the rest of the building. Leonardtown has made great strides in the revitalization of its downtown business district over the last couple of decades. With the reawakening of the desire of people to return to the small-town charm of quaint downtowns, Leonardtown has become a thriving and vital asset of St. Mary's County. It is the home of many small, locally owned businesses. Within the downtown, there are many existing structures with historic significance and they are being reclaimed. New structures are being built to fit the existing context of this great community.

To encourage our building/business owners to improve the exterior appearance of the storefronts/buildings the Town held a Façade Improvement workshop in January 2018. The workshop was given by Tom McGilloway of Mahan Rykiel Associates, Inc. and focused on relatively small, less expensive façade improvement ideas for downtown buildings. The workshop explained the many aspects of a typical historic commercial building as shown in figure 1.

Using the understanding of the different elements of a building façade, the workshop explored effective, easy improvements such as paint color, utilizing blank walls, windows and window displays, awnings, signs and massing. For example, awnings of rich, dark colors work best and can double as signage. Signage establishes the businesses identity and brand. Signage should be kept simple and not try to convey too much information. Windows should invite viewers into the business. Keep displays simple and develop a theme, keep it fresh and have some fun!

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Calendar of Events

The Town is in the process of creating the new 2021 Calendar of Events brochure for you to see.

FIRST FRIDAY, EVERY MONTH

Celebration of "First Fridays" Historic downtown and uptown Leonardtown

COASTAL ARTS MARKET AT THE WHARF

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

April 17, 2021 & May 15, 2021

3rd Saturdays June – August

Come shop the Coastal Arts Market where you will find local artists, crafters, makers, and growers selling unique handcrafted products.

EARTH DAY

Sunday, April 18, 2021

LEONARDTOWN SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 15, 2021

BEACH PARTY

Saturday, August 7, 2021

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 23, 2021

VETERANS DAY

Thursday, November 11, 2021

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

Friday, November 26, 2021

Recycling News

We announced in the last newsletter that Town residents and businesses are now able to recycle glass at a new community glass recycling bin.

Between March and September, 3.6 tons of glass was recycled using the community bin on Park Ave., which is phenomenal!

We want to thank you for keeping glass out of the regular commingled recycling totes and dumpsters.

Water Quality Report Annual Drinking Water Quality Report:

www.leonardtwn.somd.com/government/CCRReport-current.pdf

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



Mayor's Message

As we enter the new year, we need to count our blessings even more than usual for making it through a very trying year. The many ways this community came together over the last several months is just the reason many of us choose to live in this wonderful town. We must continue to look out for our neighbors and support our local businesses. Stay vigilant for yours and your family's health, help those who are less fortunate and shop local whenever possible.

The Town Council, Town Staff and I will continue to do whatever we can to help the community through this difficult time. Feel free to contact the Town Office if there is something we can do to assist you or your neighbor. We wish you a wonderful, prosperous new year.

History Downtown: The Old Jail Museum & New Exhibits

The Old Jail Museum, on the grounds of the courthouse in downtown Leonardtown, is open daily, 12PM to 4PM. One of the new exhibits installed in the museum deals with the lynching of Benjamin Hance in 1887. This temporary exhibit was designed by Katie Davis, an employee of the St. Mary's County Museum Division, and is on display in the very cell from which he was taken.

This is just the first of a number of exhibits being worked on by Katie. Her next one will deal with the history of the building and its connection to the Underground Railroad, the local Freedom Seekers and the people who helped them. Funding for this project was received through a Network to Freedom Grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. A historic marker will be installed on the site in the late spring.

Come visit and see the Benjamin Hance exhibit, then come back another time to see the new exhibits. Things are always changing at the Old Jail Museum! There is even an amazing museum store featuring lots of local items and Leonardtown gifts, as well as home to the Leonardtown Visitor Center. For more information, visit Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum.



Leonardtwn Goes Virtual for the Holidays

We were not be able to gather together in the Square for the traditional Christmas on the Square and Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, and the other beloved Leonardtown holiday traditions (Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square and our newest tradition, the Meet-and-Greets with Santa), but to keep you in the holiday spirit, the Commissioners of Leonardtown partnered with the St. Mary's Arts Council, the Leonardtown Business Association (LBA), and our local businesses to create a special virtual holiday event: "A Christmas in Leonardtown". A Christmas in Leonardtown included a day of festive holiday programming. We planned to bring you the many warm family traditions from our annual holiday events that you've come to love as possible; as well as feature some new ones that we hope will find a place in your heart. Enjoy the festive holiday performances, a Holiday Shopping Showcase & Craft Fair, Storytime with Santa & Mrs. Claus, a Virtual Annual Tree Lighting, and much more. The program is still available at www.visitleonardtwnmd.com/christmas. Here are direct links for the different holiday events:

- Christmas: www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/Christmas
- Veterans Day: www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/VeteransDayCelebration
- Thanksgiving: www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/Thanksgiving

**LEONARDTOWN arts
entertainment
DISTRICT**



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
ARTS COUNCIL NEWS**

Stop by and visit us to learn about the Arts in St. Mary's County, our friendly staff members will be here to share information about local opportunities and events (both virtual and socially distanced outdoor activities) within our community.

Shop at our Gallery & Gift Shop where the handcrafted works of over 40 local artists are available for purchase. Our current inventory includes paintings of a variety of media, prints, photography, handmade jewelry, woodwork, multi-media pieces, greeting cards, pottery/ ceramics, seasonal holiday items, and much more! Proceeds from our sales support our local artists with a small commission dedicated to Arts Council programs such as scholarships and grants as well as local arts-related events.

Our current hours are 11 AM to 4 PM Wednesday thru Saturday and also by appointment on other days. On First Friday evenings we are open until 8 PM, please visit our website at: www.stmarysartscouncil.com for any updates and special event info. You can also sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at our website!



photo by Bert Hindman

The St. Mary's County Arts Council office is located at 22660 Washington St. (first floor of the Leonardtown Arts Center) in downtown Leonardtown. Please consider joining as a member at only \$25 a year which is also a tax-deductible donation to support the Arts! Other levels of membership are also available at family, business, and corporate levels.

Our contact info is: 240-309-4061 or email us at: info@smcart.org. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @smcartscouncil, let's connect!

GOOD EARTH NATURAL FOODS CO.

"Where Good Things Happen!" The Good Earth Natural Foods Co. is the only small retail store that focuses solely on organic and natural products in St. Mary's County. We emphasize excellent and personal service, a wide variety of products, and also offer the opportunity to place special orders of needed items.

The Good Earth promotes local, seasonal organic produce which is sourced from two nearby locations (Sassafra Creek Farm and Dicot Farm) as well as other Certified Organic businesses.

We are a resource center for healthy, nutritional eating and living. Our Healthy Lifestyles Kitchen is used to prepare vegan and gluten-free foods using organic/natural ingredients from the store. Other featured products are Certified Organic and natural: bulk herbs and spices, beer and wine, quality supplements and remedies, eco-friendly home and bath/body products, pet food and treats, and much more.

Please visit www.goodearthnaturals.com or call (301) 475-1630 for current hours of operation and visit our Facebook page (The Good Earth Natural Foods Co) for specials and the Soup of the Day! Look for our monthly sales flyer online and in the store, which showcases produce, pantry, refrigerated items, health & beauty products, supplements and more on sale each month!

They are located at 41675 Park Avenue, just off Leonardtown Square with plenty of parking available in front of our shop and nearby. The Good Earth looks forward to seeing you soon!

Mayor
Daniel W. Burris

Town Council
Tyler Alt
Nick Colvin
Christy Hollander
J. "Jay" Maguire Mattingly, IV
Mary Maday Slade

Town Office Staff
Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator
Rebecca Sothoron, Treasurer
Beth Sandberg, Office/Procurement Manager
Tony Wheatley, Capital Projects Coordinator
Jackie Post, Fiscal Clerk
Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary
Jada Stuckert, Human Resources and Planning & Zoning
Donna Page, Receptionist
Brandy Blackstone, PR & Event Coordinator
Christa Beale, Office Assistant
Kathy Bailey, Grants Manager
Cpl. Kristi Nelson, Town Deputy

Utilities Staff
Joe Bucior, Superintendent
James Cornett, Operator
Timmy Lacey, Operator
Greg Owen, Operator
Kyle Shepherd, Operator

Planning & Zoning Board Members
Jean Moulds, Chair
Heather Earhart
Doug Islieb
Andrew Ponti
Laura Schultz

Board of Appeals
Bennett Wilson
Robert "Bob" Wentworth
Tawny LaQuay
Sean Lawson
Charles Breck

Meetings
Town Council - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13

Planning & Zoning Commission - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. February 16, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20

Contact the Town:
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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:

January 1	New Year's Day 2021
January 18	Martin Luther King Day
February 15	Presidents Day
April 2	Good Friday
May 31	Memorial Day
July 5	Independence Day (observed)
September 6	Labor Day
October 11	Columbus Day
November 11	Veteran's Day (observed)
November 25	Thanksgiving
November 26	Day After Thanksgiving
December 24	Christmas Day (observed)
December 25	Christmas Day



First Impressions Count What Your Façade Says About You!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

In 2019, Leonardtown established a Downtown Façade Improvement Grant program with a \$50,000 Community Legacy Grant from Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. This fund was regranted to 14 businesses and spurred over \$183,000 worth of improvements. The Town recently received a second grant of \$25,000 for round two of the façade grants. Ten applications were received and are under review by the Grant Committee now.

Take a stroll around the downtown and see what great projects have been completed utilizing the Façade Improvement Grant program.



Artist Rendering



Actual Improvements Underway



Vanderwal House New Paint



New ADA Accessible Door and Transom



Newly Painted Sign and Awning



Social Coffeehouse's New Awning, Signage and Trim



New Storefront Window in Nau Building on Fenwick St.



S-Kape Exterior Painting Underway



Slice House New Siding



Good Earth Raised Planter Beds

Good Earth Raised Planter Beds



New Awning on Drury Building



Energy Select New Brick Entryway



New View Fiber Works ADA accessible door, planters and shutters



Seymour Town Building new folding door and side windows

RESIDENTIAL WATER & SEWER RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020

Town residential customers are billed for their **water and sewer use** based on their **metered water consumption**. Meters are read and customers are billed on a calendar quarter basis. The rates are as follows:

WATER

Minimum charge **\$30.60** per quarter; includes 1 to 10,000 gallons of water
Extra consumption **\$ 2.55** for each thousand gallons, or fraction thereof, over 10,000 gallons.

SEWER

Minimum charge **\$67.74** per quarter; includes 1 to 10,000 gallons
Extra consumption **\$ 6.77** for each thousand gallons, or fraction thereof, over 10,000 gallons to a maximum sewer charge of \$155.75

BAY RESTORATION FEE

\$15.00 per quarter

RESIDENTIAL TRASH/RECYCLING SERVICE

\$69.77 per quarter

Per Town Code, all residents are required to utilize the Town Contractor for the trash and recycling service.

The **minimum** bill for water, sewer (up to 10,000 gallons) and trash service will be **\$183.11**.

We now offer On-Line Bill Pay through our website at www.leonardtown.somd.com.

Find the link on the front page that is labeled "Pay Utility Bill On-Line", and follow the steps.

Also, available in the Town Hall Office is a Credit/Debit Card ONLY Kiosk for your convenience.

All recycling will be collected on Wednesday. The trash collection schedule is as follows:

Monday and Thursday

Academy Hills – all streets
Leonard's Grant – all streets
Singletree – all streets
Eldon Court
Greenbrier Road
Henderson Drive

Hollywood Road
Laverne Lane
Mattingly Street
Mile Post Lane
Spalding Court

Tuesday and Friday

Clark's Rest – all streets
All other streets in
Leonardtown

PLANNING & ZONING NEWS

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS – Are you considering a renovation?

While some people prefer the lowest-budget option when it comes to renovations there are several reasons homeowners should opt to go with a licensed contractor. Hiring a licensed contractor may cost homeowners a bit more, but the long-term investment will save you time and trouble. Please consider the following points when it comes to working with a licensed contractor.



1. Licensed contractors have experience and knowledge through proper training and legal processes. They took the time to obtain the appropriate licenses and permits from authorized government offices, after passing the licensure tests.

2. Most licensed contractors offer liability insurance to protect you, your family, and your home. Liability insurance is protection from personal and bodily injury and property

damages that could occur during your renovation project. For instance, if a visitor is injured upon entering the construction site, the insurance protection will cover any medical fees that could be incurred.

3. Licensed contractors have been trained to understand and meet all requirements set by the Town and State government. They will pull the proper permits with the Town, schedule inspections to make sure your home meets all building code requirements and passes all safety examinations. These inspections can become very important when the time comes to sell your home. If you have had any major renovations completed, a potential buyer may ask if the required permits and inspections were completed for the work.

The Town requires permits be pulled for electrical and/or plumbing work, interior wall additions and/or removal, as well as exterior additions, sheds, hot tubs, pools, decks, porches, etc. If you are considering a home renovation or addition, please check with the Town Planner, Jada Stuckert to see if a permit is required.



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 for 2021 will be March 4th or 5th, June 3rd or 4th, September 2nd or 3rd, December 2nd or 3rd.

HOLIDAY PICKUP

Labor Day is on a Monday, Thanksgiving on Thursday and Christmas on a Wednesday, 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 will 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 leonardtown.somd.com.

ATTENTION NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES

New businesses are required to obtain a Commercial Use and Occupancy (U&O) Permit through the Town prior to obtaining a business or traders license from the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. No business can be conducted in Leonardtown without first obtaining a Commercial U&O.

If you are an existing business that has had a change of ownership/partnership or a change in location you are required to obtain a new Use and Occupancy Permit through the Town.

REMINDER

All homes within Leonardtown **MUST** have their five (5) digit numeric address clearly posted. These 911 addresses help local first responders find you in the event of an emergency. It is imperative that all homes be clearly marked.



Happenings in Leonardtowntown



LEONARDTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) wanted to recognize their deceased members. These were the men and women who help mold the department into what it is today, as well as having a remembrance for the people that started the department, and the people that have carried on its traditions. These are the members that need to be recognized for their contribution to the community. They sacrificed their time from their families and friends to volunteer to help their Town and County.

In January 2019, President Gary Bell made a commitment to the department to recognize their deceased members with a tribute that would make them proud and appointed a diverse committee. Gary felt this mix of individuals would come up with a memorial that is second to none; one that would show appreciation and gratitude. The committee immediately went to work by traveling around the County, State, and wherever their nose would take them to get some ideas of other memorials.

The committee came back together in April 2019 with sixteen ideas! A member even made models for everyone to see exactly what the idea was to be. Idea elimination started and then lifetime member as well as co-chairman of the committee, Kennedy Abell, pulled a piece of scrap paper out of his pocket with a sketch of his idea. The sketch consisted of a hexagon with a Maltese Cross on top and the deceased member's name on the six sides. The size of this memorial was perfect for the area that was chosen in front of the firehouse.

Much discussion followed with a positive vote from the committee on Kennedy's idea. The shape and location were complete. The next step was to contact someone who could design such an idea and see if this shape and size would be possible. Brian Hammett, from Charles Memorial Gardens, stepped up and was more than glad to contact his vendors to see if it was possible. Within a few days the idea was becoming a reality! The granite company drew up specs, pictures, sizes and materials. The committee met to discuss what had been sent from the granite company and decisions were to be made. The six-sided figure with footstones would be made from black granite. On top of the memorial will be the red Maltese Cross with the seal of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department both front and back. The front of the stone has the charter members names inscribed and each panel carries the names of their deceased members. The memorial was set in place in January of 2020 and the memorial was scheduled to have the dedication in March of 2020. However, Covid-19 had put a stop to the dedication. A new date has not been scheduled as of yet.

There were some very kind donations from J.P. and Charlene Kelly, Stepping Stone and E.P. Henry 'Heroscaping project', Aaron Mattingly and Renee Davey from Dirt Works, Kerry and Jill Klear from Printing Press, Inc. for the program, and Brian Hammett from Charles Memorial Gardens.

Special thanks to the committee members, Roger Mattingly, Chairman, Kennedy Abell, Co-Chairman and designer, Mark Wood, Ritchie Tippett, Sam Wernecke, Stephen Norris, Betty Mason Holley, and Josephine Scully.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HISTORIC MARKER

Ms. Susan Carney, a resident and local artist, recommended installation of a historic marker that would recognize the long history (8,000 years) that indigenous people lived in the area and as a way to mark native history.

Ms. Carney provided a sample of a historic marker to the Town Council that she wanted to see placed at the Wharf, which focused on what was there way before the Town was settled prior to 1634, recognizing the archaeological landscape, the vegetation and the indigenous people and history of a time period where a lot of things happened farther back than traditional times.

Also, Ms. Carney sought out funding for the project, designed the marker in her studio, and had it constructed.

The marker was dedicated on November 6, 2020 and can be seen at the Wharf.



BALLARD'S LOVE OF MARITIME AND SAILING



Robert "Buzz" Ballard has always had a fascination with the age of sail and has long been interested in history. Having lived in St. Mary's County for over 20 years, he finds the local historical sites and stories worth studying. He started building wooden ship models in 2018, with his first kit being the very difficult and detailed USS Constitution. He and his wife, Cindy, travelled to Boston to tour the beautifully restored ship, the oldest commissioned Naval war ship afloat. That trip gave him a real appreciation for the level of detail he was looking for.

After about a year of effort, he was happy with the results of the model, and soon thereafter began looking for another project. The Historical Society staff at Tudor Hall helped him locate the 74-gun 3rd rate ship of the line: HMS Albion. This ship was the flagship under the command of British Admiral George Cockburn's Chesapeake Campaign. The powerful fleet actively harassed shorelands and townships up and down the Chesapeake Bay, and Patuxent and Potomac Rivers during the war of 1812. On July 19, 1814 five (5) Man o' War vessels, led by the Albion, anchored in Breton Bay and raided Leonardtown with two battalions of Royal Marines and supporting artillery. Their forces met with little resistance from the Maryland 36th Militia who had fled, so at the request of many of the town's women, much of the town was spared. Can you just imagine that scene?

Chaptico didn't fare as well, when a few days later the fleet landed there and ransacked much of the town. The British marauders even desecrated some graves by the town church.

The walnut plank on frame model kit was purchased from Italy and took about a year to complete. The display will be in place at the Old Jail Museum in the Leonardtown for a period of a year or so. Mr. Ballard wants to share this interesting story and the detailed model with the public. Visit the Old Jail Museum and we hope you enjoy seeing it!



FIRST LANDING WINE TRAIL!

The official launch of Southern Maryland's newest wine trail, First Landing Wine Trail! All 4 wineries, Generations Vineyard, Xella Winery and Vineyard, Slack Wines at Woodlawn Estate & Inn, and Port of Leonardtown Winery are located in beautiful St. Mary's County.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CHESELDINE AUTO GROUP

We want to thank **Cheseldine Auto Group** for the pop-up photo spot they had on the corner of Fenwick and Washington Streets!



LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Southern Maryland Meats (SMM), a program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), built and installed Little Free Libraries (LFL) throughout the Southern Maryland region. We have one of these libraries located at the Good Earth Natural Foods Co on Park Avenue!



LFL is a worldwide non-profit organization that increases access to books through the creation of book-sharing boxes. The libraries are housed in parks, playgrounds, neighborhood common areas, on school grounds, at government buildings, at farmer's markets, and other regional public/private venues in order to boost community involvement with the intention of inspiring readers. The LFL are stamped with the SMM logo and constructed in the shape of little red barns. They are designed in a way that encourages awareness of the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives, as well as to promote the Southern Maryland Meats livestock producers, and to provide free reading materials to the community.

By working with neighborhood associations, parks and recreation groups, government agencies, and schools, SMM hopes to place up to 100 LFL in places where people gather as a community. "These Little Free Libraries don't just belong to SMM, they belong to you and your community," says Craig Sewell, SMM Marketing and Livestock Manager. "It's our hope that the Little Free Libraries will bring a little more connection to your local food producers and a whole lot more books to our community."



Commissioners of Leonardtown
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Leonardtwn, Maryland 20650

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TOWN PROJECTS

Stay up-to-date with the Town's long- and short-term projects! Our project information link can be found on the left side of our web page at:
www.leonardtwn.somd.com

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to Benny Knott and AB&H Excavating for donating 2 months of rental costs for the barricades for restaurant outdoor seating that allowed several of our Leonardtown restaurants to be operational during the beginning of the COVID restrictions. It is the generous community members like AB&H that will carry us through this crisis.



MATTINGLY FINISHES LEADERSHIP OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND PROGRAM



On November 19, 2020, Council Vice President, Jay Mattingly was one of 31 professionals to complete this year's Leadership Southern Maryland Executive Program, a nine-month course providing a behind the scenes understanding of the industries and issues that shape the region. The class participated in nine, one-day sessions and engaged on topics concerning housing and human services, education, public safety, environment, defense, economic development, and multiculturalism.

As graduates, the Class of 2020 joins Leadership Southern Maryland's powerful alumni network of more than 400 of the region's most distinguished leaders. Congratulations, Jay, and thank you for your ongoing leadership and dedication.

SAVE THE DATES

We are hopeful for what 2021 will bring. Please note the planned dates for next year's traditional annual events below. We will be monitoring the health department, CDC and Governor Hogan's guidelines before making decisions concerning the events noted. Please visit www.visitleonardtwnmd.com/featuredevents or the Town of Leonardtown Facebook page often for news about upcoming events and happenings, or contact 301-475-9791 or brandy.blackstone@leonardtwnmd.gov for more information.

- Earth Day – Sunday, April 18, 2021
- Summer Music Festival – Saturday, May 15, 2021
- Beach Party – Saturday, August 7, 2021
- Trick-or-Treat – Saturday, October 23, 2021
- Veterans Day – Thursday, November 11, 2021
- Christmas on the Square – Friday, November 26, 2021
- Tuesday Meet-and-Greet with Santa – Tuesday, December 14, 2021
- Saturday Meet-and-Greet with Santa & Santa & Mrs. Claus on the Square – Saturday, December 18, 2021