

Leonardtown BEACON

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

Calendar of Events

MARCH 27

Disability Awareness Day
Governmental Center

APRIL 3

Easter Festival
Governmental Center

APRIL 17

Run & Fun Walk for Hospice
Governmental Center

APRIL 18

Earth Day
Leonardtown Square

APRIL 25

Spring Fling Classic Car Show
Leonardtown Square

APRIL 29-MAY 2

So. Md. Spring Festival
SMC Fairgrounds

MAY 1

March of Dimes Walk
Leonardtown Square

MAY 16

Leonardtown Criterium
Leonardtown Square

4TH SATURDAY, MAY-AUGUST

Downtown Tunes
Leonardtown Square

JUNE 13

SMC Crab Festival
SMC Fairgrounds

JUNE 14

Flag Day Celebration
Governmental Center

JULY 10 & JULY 17

River Concert Series
on the Town Square
Leonardtown Square

AUGUST 7

Beach Party on the Square
Leonardtown Square

AUGUST 12-14

Li'l Margaret's Bluegrass Festival
Goddard Farm

At Home in Leonardtown featuring . . .

St. Aloysius Church Celebrates 300 Years of Catholic Faith

Research suggests that Leonardtown's St. Aloysius parish was founded around the year 1710 as a mission or small chapel by the Jesuits to meet the needs of the growing Catholic population in what was then known as "Seymour Town". In 1728, the town was renamed "Leonardtown" after Governor Leonard Calvert. Through the years, three church structures have housed this faithful parish.



During its Tri-centennial Celebration, 300th Anniversary Banners adorned today's St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown.

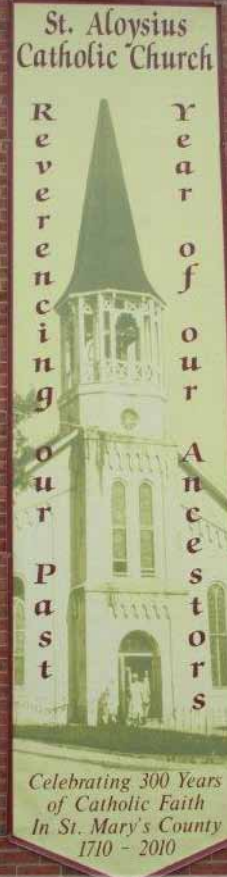
parishioners for many years. While the original church no longer stands, this old cemetery with tombstones bearing long-standing county names, remains open for burials and visiting today.

In 1846, a second St. Aloysius Church was erected on Washington Street, just north of the Town Square. During the early 1860's, the church was enlarged to include a sacristy, belfry and graceful spire. Following relocation of the Jesuit residence at Newtown to Leonardtown in 1866, St. Aloysius parish became the center of Catholic life in the upper part of St. Mary's County. In response to the escalating Catholic presence in Leonardtown, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky opened St. Mary's Academy, a girls boarding and day school in 1885, the Xaverian Brothers opened Leonard Hall, a school for boys in 1909, and the educational institution of Father Andrew White Elementary School was added by the parish in 1954. In 1910, the parish opened St. Aloysius Gonzaga Cemetery, its second burial ground, on Fenwick Street in Leonardtown.

As the parish continued to flourish, the second church structure necessitated renovations and improvements that included raising and installing a new roof over the old roof, a new ceiling, side doors and new stairways to the choir loft. In the early 1950's, a broken ceiling beam required repairs and additional structural supports. When another beam broke in 1959, the church was declared unsafe, and construction of a new church building got underway. During the three-year construction phase, all parish Masses were held at Father Andrew White School.

Continued on page 7

St. Aloysius is one of the earliest Catholic parishes in St. Mary's County. The first church structure was built in 1766 off Cemetery Road, which is located approximately two miles north of the current church on Washington Street. Built practically in the center of its cemetery grounds, this church was a wood frame edifice that accommodated



An up close look at the 300th Anniversary Banner highlighting the second St. Aloysius Church.



St. Aloysius Church at the original church site on Cemetery Road.



Mayor's Message

On December 4, 2009 several Leonardtown businesses enjoyed a visit from Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot. Comptroller Franchot was touring various towns around Maryland promoting his "Shop Local" campaign. This campaign was timed to coincide with the Christmas shopping season but I believe it is a message worth spreading all year round. As we are all painfully aware, the economic times are trying at best. Many local businesses are struggling to keep their doors open for just one more month. Right here in Leonardtown we have our share of vacant storefronts. Buying local is one thing that each and every one of us can do all year round to support our locally owned and operated businesses. Internet shopping has become more and more popular and is certainly convenient; however for every dollar spent at a locally owned store, seventy cents stays local. For every dollar spent locally at a chain store, thirty cents stays local. Not one cent stays in our community when making a purchase online. Let's all try a little harder to do our part to support our local businesses and help our neighbors. Buying local can be a retail purchase, eating at one of our fine restaurants or supporting a local service provider. We have come through hard times before and will prevail this time as well.

J. Harry Norris, III, Mayor



Jeanne Norton Hammett of the North End Gallery assists Maryland Comptroller, Peter Franchot during his "Shop Local" tour in Leonardtown on December 4, 2009. Mayor Norris, Delegate John F. Wood, Jr., County Commissioners Jack Russell and Thomas Mattingly, and other members of the community joined Comptroller Franchot, who believes that putting money back into the community and supporting local area businesses is a great way to invigorate local economy.



Disability Awareness Day

Learn what St. Mary's County agencies and providers can do for you and your loved ones. Participate in awareness activities - the first 300 will receive a free kite! There is even more for people of all abilities to enjoy. This event is held at the Leonard Hall Recreation Center on Saturday, March 27th, 1 PM - 4 PM. Sponsored by the Commission for People with Disabilities. 301-475-4200, ext. 1800.

Annual Easter Festival

Enjoy Easter egg hunts, egg decorating contests, pony rides, crafts, face painting, prizes, and the Easter Bunny at Miedzinski Park on Saturday, April 3rd beginning at 10 AM. \$1 hunt fee. All ages. 301-475-4200, ext. 1800. *Rain or shine.*



15th Annual Run & Fun Walk for Hospice

This annual 10-K Run and 5-K Run/Walk highlights Southern Maryland's largest running event, beginning at 9 AM on Saturday, April 17th at the Governmental Center. Children, strollers, and pets are welcome. Pre-register on-line at <http://www.runforhospice.org/> or register on race day beginning at 7:30 AM. Your participation/donation helps Hospice to provide in-home care, comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families in St. Mary's County. 301-475-3610.

Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate Earth Day in the Town Square on Sunday, April 18th, 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Enjoy live music, entertainment, puppet show, seated massage, face painting, children's crafts, animal rescue organizations, free kayak and canoe rides at Leonardtown Wharf and more! Learn about organic gardening, pesticide-free produce, recycling, conservation and other environmental tips to help save our planet. Sponsored by the Leonardtown Business Association. For more information call 301-475-9791.



Spring Fling XXIV Classic Car Show

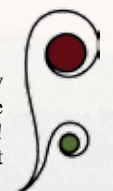
Come to Leonardtown Town Square on Sunday, April 25th between 8 AM - 4 PM and see classic and antique cars, trucks, and street rods on display. Trophies awarded for best of class, best of show, people's choice, foreign car, pedal car class, and model car contest. Kids can also enjoy a tractor pull, games and prizes! Sponsored by the St. Mary's Rod and Classic Car Club to benefit Hospice of St. Mary's. Contact Bill Higgs at 301-994-9666 or go on-line <http://stmarysrodandclassic.com> for details and registration. (*Rain date: Sunday, May 2nd*)

March of Dimes Walk

The March of Dimes will hold their annual Southern Maryland "March for Babies" walk on Saturday, May 1st in historic downtown Leonardtown. The 3-mile walk begins at 9 AM in the Town Square. Register online at www.marchforbabies.org or on Walk-Day beginning at 7:30 AM. For more information call 301-934-2235.

River Concert Series on Location in Leonardtown Square

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 10th and Saturday, July 17th to enjoy a St. Mary's River Concert Series performance in the Leonardtown Square. The concerts will begin at 7 PM. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket! For an added treat, consider dinner at one of Leonardtown's fine restaurants. Visit Leonardtown.somd.com for performance details.



Annual So. Md. Spring Festival

Enjoy entertainment, music, crafts, carnival rides, a parade, car show, and more during the annual So. Md. Spring Festival! The festival will be held Thursday, April 29th - Sunday, May 2nd at the SMC Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Holy Face Church. Admission. Call 301-994-0525 for details.

The Leonardtown Criterium Bicycle Races



The 13th running of the Leonardtown Criterium bicycle races return to the Leonardtown Square on Sunday, May 16th, 8AM-5 PM. Of historic note, the first bicycle arrived

in Leonardtown via steamship at the Leonardtown Wharf in 1879, some 131 years ago. Now, in 2010 this exciting Criterium boasts "The Bikes are Back in Leonardtown!" Bring the whole family to watch skilled cyclists from all over the mid-Atlantic region race through the streets of Leonardtown at over 30 miles per hour. Kids can bring their bike or trike and enjoy participating in the kids' races for prizes - helmets are required. Go to www.paxvelo.com for details.

Annual SMC Crab Festival

Come on out for hot and tasty steamed crabs, seafood and non-seafood items, live music, entertainment, classic cars, crafts, and more at the St. Mary's County Crab Festival on Sunday, June 13th from 11 AM-5 PM at the SMC Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5 p/person over 12 years of age. (*Cost of food is separate from admission.*) The annual SMC Crab Festival is sponsored by the Leonardtown Lions Club. Volunteers are needed. Visit <http://www.stmaryscrabfestival.com/> for more information.



Flag Day Celebration

Bring the family to celebrate our Nation's Flag with music, a parade, flag-raising, and the Annual Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance. This patriotic event will be held on Flag Day, Monday, June 14th, beginning at 6 PM on the Governmental Center lawn. Free hand-held flags for all in attendance! For more information call 301-475-4200, ext. 1341.

Downtown Tunes

Grab your family, friends, and lawn chairs, and boogie with "Downtown Tunes", held in the Leonardtown Square on the 4th Saturdays of May through August.

- May 22: Jazz sounds kick-off the 2010 series.
- June 26: Acoustic melodies
- July 24: Country sounds
- August 28: Rock-n-Roll favorites

Downtown Tunes begins at 6 PM. While enjoying the music, take a few minutes to stroll around the Town Square and check out our shops and restaurants! For more information, contact Robin Guyther at 301-904-4452.

College of Southern Maryland's Twilight Performance Series

CSM's *Twilight Performance Series* returns this summer to present sensational entertainment for the whole family! Performances scheduled at the CSM Leonardtown Campus are as follows:

Tuesday, July 6: Chautauqua 2010: "Borders, Boundaries, and Barriers"

Tuesday, July 13: Fitzmaurice Band performs bluegrass and country to jazz, classical, international folk and classic rock.

Tuesday, July 20: Terrence McArdle & Big Trouble will entertain you with swing, blues, and R&B favorites.

Tuesday, July 27: Alegria will captivate you with an engaging mix of Brazilian, Cuban, Caribbean, Spanish Flamenco, and American jazz standards.

All concerts begin at 6:45 PM. Bring your family, a picnic basket (non-alcoholic beverages only), and a lawn chair or blanket. Visit www.csmd.edu/FineArts/ for more information and a complete calendar of events.

Kayaking and Canoeing at Leonardtown Wharf and the Port of Leonardtown

Bring your kayak or canoe and enjoy breathtaking scenery from the waters of Breton Bay at Leonardtown Wharf Park and McIntosh Run at the Port of Leonardtown Launch Ramp.

Don't have your own kayak or canoe? The Town has contracted with McIntosh Outfitters for kayak and canoe rentals, complete with paddles and personal flotation devices. Check availability and prices on site, or call McIntosh Outfitters in advance to arrange your trip at 240-577-3971. You can also contact Hillside Ride for shuttle transportation at 301-475-0065.

2010 Maryland to Kentucky Reunion

The Maryland to Kentucky Reunion is returning to St. Mary's County this summer, from Friday July 16th through Sunday July 18th. Reunion participants will be traveling from all over the country, and are coming not only to see the land their forefathers left behind, but also to meet their St. Mary's County "cousins". They will want to talk with the "stay behinds" and will be seeking your invaluable help as they research their roots.

The Maryland to Kentucky Reunion planning committee hopes you will join us in "welcoming home" our returning descendants! Special events will include a Welcome Home reception on Friday, a Saturday evening dinner, and breakfast on Sunday morning. All events will take place at the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall. More information and registration forms are available at www.MDtoKYreunion.club.officelive.com on the web, and in the Leonardtown Town Office.

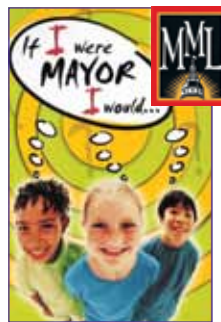
Leonardtown on the Web

For current news, special events in and around Town, community information, Leonardtown businesses, history and more, be sure to check the official Leonardtown web site at Leonardtown.somd.com. You can browse the Leonardtown Beacon newsletter on-line too!

4th Graders . . .

"What Would You Do If You Were Mayor of Leonardtown?"

The Maryland Municipal League's Communication Committee is sponsoring its annual "If I Were Mayor, I would...." essay contest for 4th grade students. This year's theme is: "Using Community Volunteers". When serving as a community volunteer, citizens can learn about their local government, practice teamwork, and use their talents and abilities to improve their city or town. If you were Mayor, how would you get citizens to volunteer? What jobs would you give volunteers and why? How would you thank and encourage your volunteers? Be creative!



One winning essay will be selected from each of the MML's 11 regional districts throughout the State. Winners will receive a \$250 savings bond, an award plaque, and be recognized at the Municipal Government Week celebration activity held at the Maryland State House. Essays must be submitted to MML by April 1, 2010. Students can download an official entry form, complete contest rules, and contest study guide by visiting the MML website at www.mdunicipal.org and clicking on 2010 Mayor's Essay Contest Brochure. For further assistance, call MML at 1-800-492-7121 or the Town Office at 301-475-9791.

Volunteer at Town Events!

Leonardtown is always scouting for volunteers to help with our many events! Students who need community service credits can also benefit by serving as an event volunteer. Interested persons should contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791 for available volunteer opportunities.

"First Fridays" are Special in Leonardtown!

Experience Leonardtown! "First Fridays" are celebrated in Leonardtown the first Friday evening of every month, year round, 5 PM - 8 PM. Visit Downtown Leonardtown, Breton Marketplace, and the Maryland Antiques Center Complex to enjoy trendy art galleries, superb restaurants, and unique retail shops and businesses.



Many of the shops and businesses offer "First Friday" specials, including poetry readings, book signings, cooking classes, jewelry making, receptions, live music and more! The galleries invite you to browse and meet the artists - perhaps you will find that perfect piece of fine art to showplace in your home or office. Relax with dinner at one of our excellent restaurants, where you can often find menu specials unique to "First Friday".

Make plans now to rediscover the many treasures of Leonardtown! "First Fridays" are sponsored in cooperation with the Leonardtown Business Association. Check www.leonardtownfirstfridays.com for a list of "First Friday" participants and specials.

Come see what's new in historic Leonardtown!!!

Mayor

J. Harry Norris, III

Town Council

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

Town Office Staff

Laschelle McKay, *Town Administrator*
Rebecca Sothoron, *Treasurer*
Jackie Post, *Fiscal Clerk*
Teri Dimsey, *Executive Secretary*
Jeannine Peele, *Town Secretary*
DeAnn Adler, *Plans Reviewer*
Linda Shepherd, *Public Relations*
Barbara Dotson, *Grants Writer*
Tony Wheatley, *Capital Project Coordinator*
Cpl. Peggy Smolarsky *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
Glen Mattingly

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 PM in the Town Office. Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13.

Planning & Zoning Commission - 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 PM in the Town Office. Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

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

Website: Leonardtown.somd.com

Leonardtown's Web Site:

www.leonardtown.somd.com

Winter 2009 | Spring 2010





Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On October 17, 1934 the Ladies Auxiliary to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department was organized to provide support and financial aid to the firemen. The Auxiliary's first fund raiser was a card party that netted \$75. Eventually, other fund raisers were added, including raffles, catering, dances, dinners, pancake suppers, bake sales, basket bingo, and sales of cotton candy, French fries, and snow cones when the annual carnival was in operation. Over the years, several hundred thousand dollars has been raised by the Auxiliary. The most recent check in the amount of \$25,000 was presented to the Fire Department on January 3, 2010 during the joint Installation Banquet. Fund raising efforts by the Auxiliary continues to provide firemen's insurance, and has extended to include necessary equipment, running gear, digital cameras, etc. for the fire trucks, uniforms, additions and renovations to the firehouse, tables and chairs for the social hall, and emergency vehicles including two pickup trucks, a van and ladder truck.

Mayor Norris and Town Council member Leslie Roberts presents a 75th Anniversary award to Kit Pilkerton, President of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

In 1998 the Ladies Auxiliary to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department was renamed the Auxiliary of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. so that men interested in joining and supporting the Auxiliary could do so. The first President of the Auxiliary in 1934 was Mrs. Florence Cropper. The current Auxiliary President is Katharine Pilkerton. "Kit" is a 40-year member of the Auxiliary, and served as President between 1982-1986 and 2004-present. On January 6, 2010, the Auxiliary, Fire Department and Leonardtown community was heartbroken over the sudden death of Auxiliary member Mary Jane Scully. "Janie" was a member and tireless supporter of the Auxiliary for over 58 years.



Members of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary are recognized during their 75th Anniversary celebration.

Are you looking to serve your community? The Auxiliary needs you and invites you to join them! Meetings are held every first Thursday of the month at the Leonardtown Fire House at 7:00 PM. For more information on the history of the Auxiliary, or to become a member and make history, contact Kit Pilkerton at 301-475-9049.

Santa Visits the Town Square

Santa and Mrs. Claus visited Leonardtown on a beautiful sunny Saturday, December 12th! Over 100 children lined up to give Santa their wish lists and convince Mr. Claus that they truly belong on the "nice" list! Parents also had a chance to snap some photos for their memory book. While waiting in line, many enjoyed sipping hot chocolate provided by the Squires, a new group of young men ages 8-16 affiliated with the Knights of Columbus.

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Leonardtown Beacon

Torrential Rains Halt the 2009 Annual Veterans Day Parade

November 11th in Leonardtown is customarily bustling with patriotic energy, floats, marching bands, motorcycles and many other decorated marchers and spectators to honor our country's Veterans.

While torrential rains halted the 2009 Veterans Day Parade, the spirit of patriotism prevailed. Wreaths were laid at the monuments in the Town Square, followed by a memorial ceremony in the Leonard Hall Recreation Center, where those in attendance were warmly welcomed by Mayor Norris and other state and local officials. Highlights of the ceremony included singing of the National Anthem by Hayden Hammett, performing the Armed Forces Medley by the Chopticon High School Band, and playing of Taps by Ben Godwin of the CHS band. Reciting their prize-winning essays titled "What Veterans Day Means to Me" were Alyssa Bazemore, Marquez Brice, Emma Gilligan, and Grant Wolfe, students of Leonardtown Elementary School.



Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting

"It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas..." was echoed by many as the cold temperatures set the festive atmosphere for Leonardtown's Christmas on the Square and Annual Tree Lighting! Thousands of people huddled together in the Town Square to watch Santa light the Christmas tree, while sounds of the season were performed on-stage by the St. Aloysius Spirit Singers, Jonah and Simon Yeh, Gracie's Guys and Gals, Super Magic Man Reggie Rice and the Blue Sky Puppet Theater. Additional entertainment around Town included horse and carriage rides, sleigh rides, hay rides, fire truck rides, costumed characters, a live nativity, hot kettle corn, hot apple cider and other activities that delighted the hearts of everyone.



"Best Dressed Window Award"

Congratulations to *Olde Towne Stitchery*, winner of the "Best Dressed Window Award". Diane Fenwick, owner of Leonardtown's new quilt and fabric shop, accepts the award presented by Town Administrator, Laschelle McKay. The Town appreciates Diane and all the downtown business owners who decorated their storefronts for the Christmas holiday season.



LVRSA Christmas Festival

Decorated Christmas trees and wreaths were enjoyed by many visiting the "Christmas Festival", sponsored by the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary November 23rd - 27th. This festival is one of several fund-raising activities held by the Auxiliary to support the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad.



The LVRSA is currently seeking funds to demolish their existing building and construct a larger building that would be adequate for the growing needs of our community. If you would like to help, please go to their web site at www.lvrs.org to donate on-line, or mail your tax deductible donation to LVRSA, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

The Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad and Auxiliary also welcomes new members! Apply on-line today when you visit their website.

Highlights



Newtowne Village Residents Enjoy Christmas Dinner

Enjoying Christmas dinner and sharing Christmas joy! On December 18, 2009, residents of Newtowne Village sat down to a lovely Christmas dinner selflessly prepared by Leonardtown's Deputy Peggy Smolarsky and her husband Ed.

Newtowne Village Residents Donate Hats to Hospice

Newtowne Village residents Nancy Kemmis, Margaret May, Sally Koenig, Barbara Courtney, and Josephine Lawrence smile as they donate handmade knitted and crocheted hats to Hospice of St. Mary's on March 9th. Hospice nurse Cathy Fenwick accepted their donations with an equally big smile!



Congratulations! Leonardtown "First Friday" Winners!



Maggie Daly was the excited winner of a Fuji Crosstown bicycle, donated in part by Mike's Bikes, Century 21 New Millennium, and Leonardtown "First Friday" businesses during Leonardtown's December First Friday event! The spirit of the season shone when 12-year old Maggie announced she was giving the bike to her dad for Christmas.



Congratulations to Leonardtown's February Valentine's winner, Charlie Micallef! Charlie's Valentine's gifts included a one night stay at the Executive Inn & Suites on Park Avenue in Leonardtown, dinner at Café des Artistes, lunch at Vineyard Café & Tea Room at the Maryland Antiques Center, and Gift Certificates from North End Gallery, Maryland Antiques Center, Shelby's Framing & Turning Leaf Gallery, and a weaving demonstration at Treadles Studio.

News from the Leonardtown Business Association

The Leonardtown Business Association welcomes their newest members: Lola Belle, Griffin Flooring Max, and Hot Diggety Dog.

LBA members can enjoy showcasing their business, networking with other business men and women, advertising opportunities, participating in First Friday events, keeping up-to-date on Leonardtown projects, and receiving news from County representatives and businesses.

The LBA is currently sponsoring a membership drive to raise its profile, heighten tourism, and promote local shopping. Monthly meetings are held every second Friday at 8:30 AM. Annual membership is only \$100. We encourage you to visit the LBA's new website at www.thelba.org or contact Dan Norris, LBA President, at dnorris@drnenvironmentalsolutions.com to join the LBA today!



Congratulations to the 2010 LBA Officers: Treasurer, Susan Kilroy, Loan Officer, Community Bank of Tri-County; President, Dan Norris, CEO, DRN Environmental Solutions, LLC; Secretary, Melinda Owens, Sales Manager, Heritage Printing and Graphics; and Vice-President, Joe Orlando, Owner, Fenwick Street Used Books & Music.

OPENING SOON!

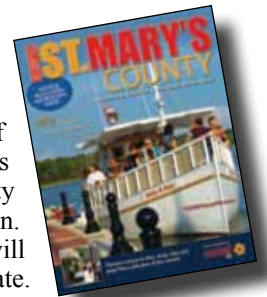
The long awaited Port of Leonardtown Winery will be opening its doors to the public on Friday, May 7th during Leonardtown's First Friday event. The first of the white wines will be ready for sampling and finishing touches on the beautiful new tasting room will be complete. To celebrate this accomplishment, we invite you to join us for a grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting on Friday, May 21st at 2 PM.

The Port of Leonardtown Winery will be operated by The Southern Maryland Winegrowers Cooperative. Mark your calendars now and be one of the first to share in this exciting new experience.



Leonardtown Featured in 2010 St. Mary's County Visitor Guide

In a partnership with St. Mary's County Tourism, Great State Publishing (Publishers of Maryland Life magazine) and Commissioners of Leonardtown this year's St. Mary's County Visitors Guide will feature Leonardtown. Seventy five thousand copies of the guide will be printed and distributed throughout the State. The Town will also be featured in the July/August issue of Maryland Life magazine. Tourism plays an ever increasing part in the local economy and this partnership is a great opportunity to increase the awareness of our charming town.



2010 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

All jurisdictions in Maryland are required to update their Comprehensive Land Use Plans every six years. The plan is a blueprint for guiding the Town as it develops in the future. The plan has legal significance in that zoning, provision of water and sewer, and other local actions must be consistent with its recommendations. The comprehensive plan may also be known as a "master plan", "master development plan" or "comprehensive master plan". This year marks the beginning of several new state requirements to be included in the plans.

A committee of local residents, businesspeople and property owners has worked with a consultant for the last several months drafting a plan to move forward through the public process. The first public hearing was held before the Leonardtown Planning Commission on March 15th. Comments from that hearing and recommendations from the Planning Commission will be forwarded to the Town Council for a second public hearing to be held April 12th at 4:15 PM. A copy of the draft plan is available on the town website at Leonardtown.somd.com for anyone interested in reviewing the plan.

Winter 2009/Spring 2010



For a copy of the new and exciting LBA brochure, call the Town Office at 301-475-9791.



The *Good Earth Natural Foods Co* could easily adapt its tag line to read, ***“Where Something Good (and Green!) Happens Everyday!”*** Valerie Deptula, owner, has pursued an environmentally friendly business model since opening the store more than 10 years ago. Renovations to its current location included the installation of energy efficient lighting and the seasonal use of LED holiday lights on the building’s exterior.

Customers who bring their own bags are offered a wooden token, worth five cents, to contribute to one of three community charities chosen each year by store staff. The recycled glass jars fill with tokens and *The Good Earth* donates the collected amount at the end of the year. All paper products used in the store’s demonstration kitchen are eco-friendly and recyclable paper and plastic items are placed in mixed use recycling bins. Cardboard boxes are broken down and put in a recycle container. Packaging “peanuts”, collected each week, are taken to The Shipping Store for reuse and all unsold produce is shared with the soup kitchen at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Leonardtown. Expired produce and compostable materials are given to a local, organic homestead for livestock and gardening use. Eco-friendly cleaning products are used by staff for store maintenance and live plants, placed atop the retail coolers, help with air quality.

There are numerous ways for customers and staff to utilize environmentally friendly practices in day to day store operations. And, the sum total of everyone’s effort can make a big difference.

Visit *The Good Earth Natural Foods Co.* on line at <http://www.goodearthnaturals.com/> or stop by the store located at 41675 Park Avenue in Leonardtown and check out their amazing variety of organic, natural and specialty foods, gluten and wheat-free products, herbs, spices, essential oils, natural pet products, fruits and vegetables, and more! *The Good Earth Natural Foods Co.* is a member of the Leonardtown Business Association and active participant in Leonardtown’s “First Friday” events.

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Leonardtown Beacon

VOTE – VOTE -- VOTE

2010 Leonardtown Elections – May 4th

An elected Mayor and five-member Town Council serve four-year terms on a rotating basis to govern Leonardtown. This year, three Town Council seats are up for election and will be voted on. Town residents must be registered to vote and be at least 18 years of age on or before the day of general election, and reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown. Having a Leonardtown mailing address or owning property within the incorporated limits does not qualify you as an actual resident. To confirm that you actually reside within the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, or if you have other election questions, please contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791.

Important Leonardtown Election Dates:

Friday, April 16, 2010: Voter registration deadline.

Monday, April 19, 2010: Deadline to file as a candidate for a Town Council seat.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010: Deadline to submit a completed absentee voter application.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010: Town Election Day

Attention Residents! Your Maryland Tax Returns - Write in “Leonardtown” !

Residents! It is important that you complete the city, town or taxing area box on your 2009 Maryland income tax return - write or type in “Leonardtown”! A large source of the Town’s operating budget is local income tax revenues. This does not increase your taxes but, thanks to you, it does ensure that the Town will receive its proper distribution of your income tax dollars that will be used right here in Leonardtown! If you are not sure whether you live in the corporate limits, please call the Town office at 301-475-9791.

Permits Required for Home Repairs

Town residents making plans for home improvement projects are reminded that building permits are required for sheds, decks, swimming pools, piers, room additions and additional living space. Applications for building permits should be made at least two weeks before beginning your new and exciting additions! In some instances, approval may also be required from your homeowner’s association before a building permit can be issued. Contact the Town Office for details.

Rt. 245 Traffic Planning Study

A Traffic Planning Study is underway for Rt. 245 in Leonardtown. Jointly sponsored by the Town of Leonardtown, St. Mary’s County Government, College of Southern Maryland and St. Mary’s Hospital, the study will be developed by a qualified traffic engineering consulting firm, Desman Associates. The study will look at the current and planned projects that impact traffic along this important corridor in town and make recommendations for improvements including pedestrian, traffic flow and connectivity. The study will be complete in approximately 60 days.

Municipal Parking Lot Reopens

The Town has completed the renovation of the Washington Street Municipal Parking Lot next to *The Hair Company*. This project was part of the mitigation for the Critical Area impacts along Fenwick Street for the streetscape project. The State Highway Administration funded the construction and the project was designed to improve stormwater management for the area as well as improve the aesthetics of the public lot. Bay Country Contractors did a great job as the general contractor and Stepping Stone did a fantastic job of laying the brick pavers.

Residential Water Meter Update

The first phase of the residential meter installation project was completed in December, which included the installation of meter vaults at all single family residences. The installation of the actual meter units is currently underway and the estimated completion is June 2010. Residents should anticipate actual consumption information to be shown on their September and December quarterly utility bills for information only. A new rate structure should be in place by the first billing cycle in 2011. Until then water and sewer use will continue to be billed at a flat rate. Please watch for updated information in future Beacon editions or online at the Town website. By making simple changes in our daily routines, you can reduce water usage and contribute to protecting this precious resource for future generations!

Trash Pickup and Recycling Reminders

Residential trash is collected every Tuesday and Friday. Please remember to set your totes out the night before or by 6:00 a.m. on the day of pick-up.

The next quarterly **bulk trash** pickup dates are Friday, March 5th and Friday, June 4th. Bulk trash items are collected at the same time as your regular trash on these days.

Residential recycling is picked up on Wednesdays. Remember to set your recycling tote out the night before or by 6:00 a.m. the day of pick-up. With streamlined recycling, it’s easier than ever to recycle your newspapers, phone books, cardboard, glass, plastic, cans, and other approved items.

Town residents should contact the Town Office to request a trash or recycling tote. Log on to <http://leonardtown.somd.com/services> for more information on Leonardtown’s trash service, bulk trash, holiday pick-up, and acceptable recyclables.

Look for the Recycling emblem on all your disposables! With single stream recycling, Goode Trash Removal continues to see a vast increase in Leonardtown’s recycling efforts. “Thank You” residents and customers, for making recycling an important part of your daily routine to help save our planet!

Goode Trash Removal will operate on its regular Tuesday and Friday trash pick-up day, and Wednesday recycling day during the weeks containing President’s Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day holiday.

Commercial Customer Recycling

Commercial customers interested in comingled recycling service should call Jackie Post at 301-475-9791 to order your tote and schedule the servicing of your account. Goode Trash Removal will provide you with a 96-gallon recycling tote and pick up your recyclables on Wednesdays. This is not a free service, and customers will be charged \$4.75 each time your tote is collected. The expected outcome is that your garbage service can be reduced, which would partially offset the recycling fee. Some customers may need service every week; others may need less. You can request more than one tote if you anticipate a large volume of recycling material.

St. Aloysius Church Celebrates 300 Years of Catholic Faith

Continued from page 1

The third and present day St. Aloysius Church stands on Washington Street in Leonardtown. This colonial-style church, dedicated on March 18, 1962, is characteristic of modern design that continues to serve the parish. It's beautiful and expansive interior provides adequate seating for Mass, as well as weddings, funerals, first communions, confirmations and other occasions. A number of relics from the second church, including a statue of St. Aloysius and the Jenkins Memorial Bell were salvaged and can be seen in and around the church today.



Parishioners gather at the new Memorial Stone placed at the first St. Aloysius Church site on Cemetery Road.

Rejoicing in its Tri-centennial, St. Aloysius parish formed a committee of ten hard-working volunteers to plan a three-year celebration of liturgical and social events, all centered on the overall theme: "Celebrating 300 Years of Catholic Faith in St. Mary's County."



The Spirit Singers perform on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. They have also traveled to the Capitol and the Kennedy Center.

During the first year of celebration, July 2007 through June 2008, the parish focused on events of their beginnings with the theme "Reverencing our Ancestors: Celebrating our Past". An inaugural Mass was celebrated on July 1, 2007 by Archbishop Donald Wuerl, assisted by Father John Dakes and Father Francis Burch. Following Mass, a parish picnic was enjoyed at Father Andrew White School. This celebratory year highlighted memorabilia displayed in the church vestibule, special Anniversary Banners placed at the church entrance, and a "St. Aloysius Gonzaga Tri-Centennial Prayer" composed for the parish by Rev. Paul G. Mast. Additional mementos consisted of a 300th Anniversary Parish Pictorial Directory containing parish history and historic photos, and "Living Memories" written by parish members that were published in the weekly bulletin to serve as parish history documentation for future generations. In the spring of 2008, a re-Dedication Mass was held at the Old St. Aloysius Cemetery, where a Memorial Stone was placed on the site of the first parish church.

The second year of celebration, July 2008 through June 2009, focused on today's

parish community through "Honoring our Present: Celebrating Today". Comprised of more than 870 households, the parish is vibrant and identifies the church as its "people". Spiritual opportunities exist in 25 ministries within the

parish that mutually embrace the members and serve the parish. Ministries include a Parish Pastoral Council, the St. Vincent dePaul Society, a twinning program in Botswana, Catechists, Adult Faith Formation, Junior High and High School Youth Ministry, a Children's Choir (Spirit Singers), a Youth Choir (Cross Generation), an Adult Choir (Grateful Hearts), committees for

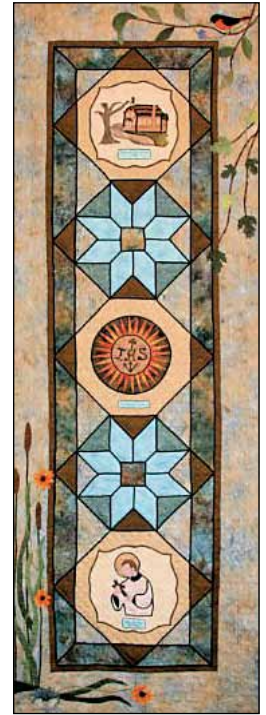
Evangelization, Pro-Life, Homebound, Meals for Friends, Bible Study, Welcoming of New Parishioners, Teachers and Administrators at Father Andrew White School, and others. Events throughout the year included a Winter Potluck Dinner and plans for a parish trip to Italy to walk in the footsteps of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Fundraising efforts included prints of an original painting by local artist George McWilliams of the present day church, and a glass etching of the present day church, which are still available for purchase.

During the third and final year of its celebration, July 2009 through June 2010, the parish looks beyond today with the theme "Dreaming our Future: Celebrating our Youth." The parish sees young people both as a part of the Church today, as well as the Church of tomorrow, and celebrates today's youth as they seek to commit themselves to God's call in single life, marriage, priesthood, or religious life. To fortify this aspiration, the parish offers several ministries for youth participation, including youth lectors, ushers, two Youth Ministries - "Edge" (Junior High), and "LifeTeen" (High School), Family Game Night, and monthly Youth Mass. To challenge the youth and parishioners in their faith and religious call, the parish instituted a vocation cross that passes from family-to-family each week, and a Lenten mission centering on the Eucharist. Parish youth are also invited to submit memories

of their Catholic education and their dreams for the future.

On June 26, 2010, the St. Aloysius Church Tri-centennial Celebration will conclude as it began, with a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Donald Wuerl, con-celebrated by Father John Dakes, Father Francis Burch and former pastors and associate pastors of the parish. A parish dinner/dance will follow at the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department.

Throughout the history of St. Aloysius Church, the parishioners have been blessed with many talented and dedicated pastors, assistant pastors, altar servers, choirs, lectors, ushers, and others too numerous to mention. To read more about St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, its mission, and opportunities, log on to <http://www.saintaloyuschurch.org/> or contact Father John Dakes at 301-475-8064.



The 300th Anniversary quilt, designed and created by Mrs. Ann Combs. The top panel is an image of the 1766 Church. The middle panel is the logo of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits who founded the parish. The bottom panel is an image of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Adorning the quilt is the Maryland state bird, the Baltimore Oriole; branches of the state tree, the White Oak; the state flower, the Black-Eyed Susan; and the State crustacean, the Maryland Blue Crab.

The Office of the Commissioners of Leonardtown will be closed in observance of upcoming 2010

Holidays:

May 31	Memorial Day
July 5	Independence Day
September 6	Labor Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
November 26	Day after Thanksgiving
December 24	Christmas Day



Town Tidbits



Photo by Frank Marquart

Café des Artistes Celebrates 10 Years in Leonardtown

Chef Loic & Karleen Jaffres invite you to join them in celebrating 10 years of fine French cuisine and culinary masterpieces! Every weekday, the Café will feature a special \$10 all-inclusive lunch in honor of 2010! Other 10-year anniversary specials will be offered throughout the year. Ask about Le Salon if you're looking for a private room to accommodate your dinner party. Café des Artistes is located at 41655 Fenwick Street in Leonardtown. Reservations are recommended. Call 301-997-0500 or visit <http://www.cafedesartistes.ws/> on the web for more details.

The Lola Belle Co. Is Now Open!

The Lola Belle Co. offers unique home accents, furnishings, gifts, and jewelry. Personal decorating services are also available to assist clients in turning their visions into a reality. Located in the Flooring Max shopping center on Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown, Amy Thompson, owner, invites you to come in and see what's new! Open Monday through Saturday. For decorating services or more information call 301-997-1797.



The Olde Towne Stitchery is Here!

Leonardtown's new and charming quilting shop opened on December 28th, 2009, and followed with a grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting on Friday, January 15th, 2010. Do you want to learn to quilt? Do you have a friend who wants to learn? Quilting classes and special project classes for all levels can be found at the *Olde Towne Stitchery*. Be sure to stop in and visit the *Olde Towne Stitchery* located at 41665 Fenwick Street or check www.oldetownestitchery.com for news, classes, specials, and more!

Diane Fenwick, proud owner of Olde Towne Stitchery, is excited to offer quilters a variety of excellent quality fabric, sewing notions, books, patterns, and handmade quilts.



St. Mary's Hospital Merges with MedStar Health

Congratulations to St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, who recently became the ninth hospital in MedStar Health's network and the first hospital in the Southern Maryland region to join the region's largest nonprofit healthcare system. The hospital already has an established relationship with MedStar Transport, as well as Washington Hospital Center, which will both be expanded upon as a result of the merger. Additionally, St. Mary's Hospital was recognized with the 2009 Delmarva Foundation Excellence Award for Quality Improvement and joins three other MedStar hospitals in receiving this distinction.

Historical Society Successful in Nomination of Newtown Manor House

The St. Mary's County Historical Society is proud to announce that its nomination of the Newtown Manor House for the Endangered Maryland program, a partnership between Preservation Maryland and *Maryland Life Magazine*, was accepted as one of eleven endangered sites in Maryland for their 2010 program. All the sites are featured in the March/April 2010 issue of *Maryland Life*. Visit the Town website for more information.

Staff Notes

Over the past three years, our Event Coordinator, Julie Lemmon, has kept Leonardtown events rolling. The Town wishes Julie all the best as she moves on to new challenges! We will miss you!



It's the Law - Pick Up After Your Pet!

Did you know that pet waste is a health concern that contributes to the spread of parasites and possible disease? When enjoying a walk around Leonardtown, the Town Square and Leonardtown Wharf Park, please be responsible by cleaning up and properly disposing of any waste left by your dog. The Town will be enforcing the law and charging a \$50 fine to offenders. You can promote neighborhood courtesy by keeping our grounds as sanitary and unsoiled as possible for all to treasure!

Wintry Scenes of Leonardtown during the Snowstorms of 2010



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