



# FIRST FRIDAY ALL WEEKEND, EVERY MONTH May through October

Celebration of "First Fridays"

Historic Downtown & Uptown Leonardtown

## BRUDERFEST AT THE BRUDERGARTEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 11:00 A.M.
Shepherd's Old Field Market

## LEONARDTOWN SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL FINALE CONCERT

Featuring Vertigo Red
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Leonardtown Square

#### **HALLOWEEN MOVIE FEST**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Leonardtown Wharf

# VETERANS DAY PARADE & MEMORIAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Leonardtown Square

#### **CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. *Leonardtown Square* 

#### **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>™</sup> 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Leonardtown Square

#### **MEET & GREET WITH SANTA**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>
4:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## **COASTAL ARTS MARKET**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>™</sup>
AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4<sup>™</sup>
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Leonardtown Wharf

## **2023-2024 EVENT SEASON**

To view featured event dates and to find latest news and updates visit:

VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events

## **Water Quality Report**

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



## Mayor's Message

August brought a first to Leonardtown with the visit from the World's Largest Duck on August 4th-6th. Leonardtown saw well over 50,000 visitors in three days make their way into town to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Leonardtown Wharf. As they made their way down Washington Street they would look up and see Mama Duck peek her head over the trees and smiles would spread

across their faces. Visitors came from far and wide and discovered our charming town. Many said they would return and spend some time here exploring. A small group of staff members, Councilpersons, volunteers, and neighbors jumped in and did whatever needed to be done during those three long days.

While this is a one-time event, the benefit to our local business community was felt across the County and will keep benefiting as return visits occur. Business owners reported sales in record numbers. One owner reported making 10 months of sales in one weekend, while another reported that they made their whole normal summer sales in those three days. This phenomenon was reported all through the Town. Most of the restaurants sold out of many of their supplies. This success would not have been possible without the partnerships with many businesses and organizations that always come together, along with our wonderful volunteer community. Coming together to make our community shine is something this community is known for. We would like to thank all who worked, volunteered and visited Leonardtown in celebration of the Leonardtown Wharf 15th Anniversary.

# Happenings in Teonardtown



**SPICE Studio** will be celebrating its 6th year on the Square this September. In addition to their birthday celebration and weekly classes, consider joining them for one of their many pop-up events, personal training, or Breast Cancer support workshops (S.P.A.C.E.). In the Fall, they will welcome back their stroller fitness classes as well

as host their annual charity events, a mini-retreat, and wrap up the year with a Mingle and Jingle holiday event for a chance to do some shopping and support local foster children with the Angel Tree Project.

## **BRETON OBSERVATION BOXES (BOBS) AT THE WHARF**

Technology students from the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown have developed a water quality monitoring system for the Breton Bay. The modules are called BOBs in short and the Leonardtown Wharf has its very own BOB! The students placed data-collecting modules in the watershed, allowing the community to view the information collected in real-time. The module boxes are a low-cost water quality monitoring equipment device, which was funded by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.



BOB is a floating instrument box that monitors several water quality variables and electronically sends to the information internet every 10 minutes. The modules monitor air temperature, humidity, water temperature at the surface and the bottom, dissolved



oxygen, acidity levels in the water, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, and salinity.

There are a total of seven BOB modules. They will be placed, if not already, at the Leonardtown Wharf, Lovers Point Oyster Sanctuary, McIntosh Run, Moll Dyer Run, Combs Creek, Cherry Creek, and Newtowne Neck.

The student's goal is to increase public awareness of the importance of water quality, but also aid in the restoration of natural oyster reefs by monitoring for excess nutrients that can cause the growth of algae blooms that lower oxygen content which is imperative to ovster survival. Ovsters are very important because they serve as a keystone to the ecosystem species. They're very good at keeping the ecosystem in balance. Oysters filter out contaminations in the water, providing a better ecosystem.

cont. on page 5

## **NEW BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT!**

**The Example 2** Example 2 The protection, assistive devices, or need a specialized hearing or balance treatment plan, their Doctors of Audiology are there to help. 41660 Courthouse Drive, Suite 301, Leonardtown, Proffitt Building

Salted Scoop - Farm fresh ice cream and homemade cones. 22699 Washington Street, Leonardtown

Kneaded Baking Company - Freshly baked goods and artisanal pastries. 22699 Washington Street, Leonardtown

Smash House – Serving Smash Burgers. 22725 Duke Street, Leonardtown, Located in Shepherd's Old Field Market

Bay Fiber Studio - Artist Eric Jackson creates art from his wildlife encounters in the watershed. His vivid color and attention to detail are meticulous. 41660 Park Avenue, Leonardtown

Flour Donuts and Bakery - Specializes in made-to-order donuts, cakes, and sweet confections. They also offer sandwiches and freshly made bread. 22675 Washington Street, Leonardtown

Merchants Lane Fine Wine & Spirits - A full-service fine wine and liquor store. They offer a wide choice of wine, spirits, seltzers, craft beers and over 100 domestic and international beers. Located next to Shoppers Food Warehouse in Leonardtown. 40845 Merchants Lane, Leonardtown

A&D Woodcrafts - High-quality custom-made wood products, custom T-shirts, tumblers and wind spinners. 22675 Washington Street, Leonardtown

### Mayor Daniel W. Burris

Town Council

Nick Colvin Heather Earhart Christy Hollander J. "Jay" Maguire Mattingly, IV Mary Maday Slade

**Town Office Staff** 

Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator Angie Graves, Treasurer Beth Sandberg, Office/Procurement Manager

Tony Wheatley, Capital Projects Coordinator

Emily Stagner, Main Street Manager Jackie Post, Human Resources and Fiscal Clerk

Teri Dimsey, Executive Secretary Mike Bailey, Planning & Zoning Donna Page, Receptionist Aris Nazarova, Events Coordinator Brandy Blackstone, Events Coordinator

Kathy Bailey, *Grants Manager* Deputy, Rachael Rozell, *Town Deputy* 

#### **Utilities Staff**

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

## Planning & Zoning Board Members

Jean Moulds, Chair Laura Schultz. Vice-Chair Doug Isleib Andrew Ponti Sean Lawson

## **Board of Appeals**

Charlie Breck, Chair Tawny LaQuay Robert "Bob" Wentworth Bennett Wilson Arnika Eskeland

Meetings

Town Council - 2nd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. September 11, October 10, November 13, and December 11

Planning & Zoning Commission 3rd Monday of each month @ 4:00 p.m. in the Town Office. September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18

Contact the Town:

Commissioners of Leonardtown 22670 Washington Street P.O. Box 1 Leonardtown, MD 20650 Phone: 301-475-9791 Fax: 301-475-5350 E-Mail: Leonardtown.

commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov Website: Leonardtown.somd.com

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

Martin Luther King Day January 16 February 20 President's Day April 7 Good Friday May 29 Memorial Day June 19 Iuneteenth Independence Day July 4 September 4 Labor Day October 9 Columbus Day November 10 Veteran's Day (observed) November 23 Thanksgiving

November 24 Day After Thanksgiving

December 25 Christmas Day









Performance by Joe Downer





Visitors enjoyed a vendor and craft fair, and live music in the Square. There were musical performances under the Gazebo at the Wharf for everyone's entertainment as well.

Talented artists made their mark around Town by leaving duck-themed chalk art throughout. Seeing all the enthusiasm this big inflatable duck had created for the Town was so much fun.



The Town was crushed with visitors in a good way. We had well over 50,000 people in Town for the weekend. The businesses kept up with the demand the best they could. We heard over and over again that bringing in the duck was a wonderful idea.

For logistical reasons, we did not have the duck on the water. First and foremost, safety needed to be at the forefront. If the duck had been on the water, it would have had to be on a barge and that would be costly. Additionally, Mama Duck is very unstable in the water and would need to be taken down in even low wind conditions. As stewards of the finances for the Town we did not feel spending the money for a barge would be wise. Also, our visitors would not be able to get up close and personal with the duck as so many attending were able to do.



Jeepers, traveled from afar to get their picture taken with the duck. One group told us they started in Ellicott City, drove to Columbia picked up 20 more Jeepers, traveled another hour to Lanham, and picked up 30 more Jeepers. The caravan made its way to the Wharf on Sunday morning. We had over 150 Jeeps travel to the Wharf for a once-in-a-lifetime photo op with the duck. The Jeepers are a special group and their excitement could not be contained.



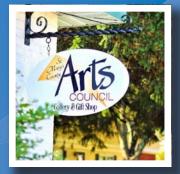
Photo courtesy of Aram Nersesian

A couple of weeks after the duck visit, we are still seeing repeat visitors including a lot of boaters that came to Town. Visitors have told us they didn't realize all that Leonardtown has to offer and are glad they came for a visit. We certainly love hearing that! Leonardtown is a special place and we want to share it with all.

For a small Town and a very small Town staff, a mighty big event was successfully implemented. A special thank you goes out to the Mayor, the Town Council, the Town Administrator, Town Staff, spouses, business owners, Holcomb Landscaping, Gibson Steel and Powdercoating, and all of our hard-working volunteers. Wharf Fest was a success because of all of you! We also want to recognize the residents of Leonardtown who showed everyone how welcoming and lovely the Town is. Thank you to all!!

"Being able to bring this once-in-a-lifetime draw to our Town was received by an unbelievable crowd. The success was only realized because of a small group of dedicated people who care deeply about their town," said Town Administrator, Laschelle McKay.





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT NEWS St. Mary's County Arts Council News

The Arts Council hosts special events including the Art Walk contest in September. An in-house art show is planned for the months of October and November, featuring work by members of the



Color & Light Society of Southern Maryland. In December, they will be offering holiday specials with a focus on shopping locally. They also hold free audience participation Drum Circles on First Fridays most of the year.

**Photo by Drew Hyde** Stop by and visit us to learn about the Arts in St. Mary's County! Our friendly staff members are available to share information about local events and opportunities in our community.

Shop at our Gallery & Gift Shop where we feature the handcrafted works of over 50 local artists.

The Arts Council is located at 22660 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD (first floor of the Leonardtown Arts Center). Their hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday with extended hours on First Fridays until 8 p.m. and for special events. Their Second Friday Socials include an open invitation for all to join from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to meet other artists and staff members. Pets are also welcome to visit!

Consider joining as a member at only \$25 a year to support the Arts! Other levels of tax-deductible memberships are available at family, business, and corporate levels.

Visit our website at www.stmarysartscouncil.com, call 240-309-4061 or email us at info@smcart.org for details about our upcoming events listed above (and more!).



## IL PICCOLO MORSO

Il Piccolo Morso took advantage of the Façade Improvement Grant program the Town was offering. They installed a brand-new patio for outdoor seating. Come relax and enjoy a lovely cocktail and meal on the new patio.





**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 (Sassafras Creek and Even' Star farms) as well as other Certified Organic businesses. Our Healthy

Lifestyles Kitchen prepares vegan and gluten-free foods using organic/natural ingredients from the store. Other featured products are Certified Organic and natural bulk herbs and spices, organic wines, 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. Located at 41675 Park Avenue, just off Leonardtown Square and are open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. After hours curbside pick-up as well as local delivery services are available upon request.

## **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 <a href="https://www.leonardtown.somd.com">www.leonardtown.somd.com</a>



Leonardtown Summer Music Festival – The spectacular 2023 season for the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival comes to an exciting end. Don't miss the final music festival concert of the season when Vertigo Red, Maryland's premiere rock cover band, performs in historic Leonardtown Square for the season finale of the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival on Saturday, October 14th. Mark your calendars so you don't miss a moment of the fun! For more information about music in Leonardtown visit: visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest



"Octoberfest" First Friday
Weekend – The Fall Event Season
in Leonardtown kicks off with
the "Octoberfest" First Friday All
Weekend Festivities from Friday,
October 6th – Sunday, October 8th.
Come see Leonardtown dressed
for the Fall and vote for your
favorite decorated scarecrow in
the 5th Annual Scarecrow Contest

beginning on Friday the 6th, and join in on exciting themed activities throughout the weekend including the Octoberfest Parade through Leonardtown Square and the Bruderfest event at Shepherd's Old Field Market (located on Duke Street right behind the old Fire House) – both being held on Saturday, October 7th. Learn about other great events and activities throughout the weekend at: VisitLeonardtownMD. com/FirstFriday



## Leonardtown Movie Festival –

The Town will hold the 2nd Annual Halloween Movie Festival on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at the Leonardtown

Wharf. Join in on fun and games including a Halloween Costume Contest and Trunk-or-Treating with area businesses followed by a screening of the Hollywood blockbuster movie Ghostbusters. The event takes place at the Leonardtown Wharf from 4 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. For more information included the full movie festival schedule go to: VisitLeonardtownMD.com/MovieFest

The 48th Annual Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony – The Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County invite the public to salute America's Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown on Saturday, November 11, 2023! The parade steps off from St. Mary's Ryken High School at 9:45 a.m., proceeds through Town Square and is

immediately followed by a Memorial Ceremony. Spectators are encouraged to park at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, or the St. Mary's County Governmental Center and take the free round-trip shuttle into Town. For more information, please call 301-475-9791 or visit VisitLeonardtownMD.com/VeteransDay.

Thanksgiving Weekend Festivities - The holiday season officially begins at Christmas on the Square when Santa arrives for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Thanksgiving Weekend on Friday, November 24, 2023. The festivities begin at 4:30 PM with holiday music, entertainment, train rides, hayrides, live nativity, petting zoo, face painting, children's crafts, hot drinks, food, holiday treats and other fun activities! (Rain Date: Saturday November 25th - Tree Lighting only at 7:30 PM). The excitement continues with Small Business Saturday the next day on Saturday, November 25, 2023. Local Leonardtown businesses will be dressed for the holidays and will be ready to help you fill your gift list. Shop our local specialty shops to find those one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list (many businesses will have discounts and special offers for the day). There's so much to do throughout Leonardtown for the holidays from fine dining, shopping, arts & entertainment, exciting events, activities and more. We hope to see you here!

Starting the same night as the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Square is Light Up Leonardtown- a celebration of all things decorative featuring areas of the square and wharf dressed to impress by the talented 'Christmas Décor' company! There will be a competition for Best Dressed Business and Neighborhood from Nov. 24 through December 17<sup>th</sup>, with winners announced in the County Times on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Stay tuned for more info!

Private Meet-and-Greets with Santa – Reservations for private Meet-and-Greets with Santa are available for families with loved ones with disabilities & for families celebrating a baby's 1st Christmas on Tuesday, December



12th from 4 p.m. -6 p.m. and Saturday, December 16th from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. These private meetings are a magic experience for families who usually are unable to bring their loved ones to meet Santa in settings with long lines and crowds. Location will be provided upon registration.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:** If you would like to register for a private Meet-and-Greet with Santa, please email: aris.nazarova@leonardtownmd.gov

# TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

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 \$69.09 per quarter; includes 1 to 10,000 gallons

Extra consumption \$6.91 for each thousand gallons, or fraction thereof, over

10,000 gallons to a maximum sewer charge of \$158.92.

**Bay Restoration Fee** \$15.00 per quarter **Residential Trash/Recycling Service** \$89.55 per quarter

Per the 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 \$204.24.

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.

## All recycling will be collected on Wednesday. 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

Meadows of Town Run – all streets

Any street not previously named

If you find you need additional trash container(s), please contact the Town Office at 301-475-9791. There is no extra monthly pick-up charge, but you will have to pay for the trash container.

## WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Many materials potentially flushed or poured down the drain can harm the pipes that connect to our sewers, and the sewers themselves as well as harm the treatment system and cause grinder pumps to fail. Eventually, this will harm our environment.

Please don't flush down non-readily dissolvable items. If it doesn't dissolve immediately in a bowl, it has no place in the sewer. The exception, of course, is toilet paper.

Grease is a major problem for our system. It will coat the sewer walls and eventually cause a clog and backup. In addition, the treatment plant does not degrade grease very well. Pour grease into a container, let it solidify, and throw it in the trash.

Obviously, toxic materials are not allowed. Anything that contains mercury or PCPs is prohibited. Paints, pesticides, paint thinners, solvents, explosive mixtures, lubricating oil, and unused medications are not allowed. The County has provided hazardous waste collection days to enable proper disposal of these items.

When you use good judgment about what you put into the sewer system, you can help the environment and work to keep your sewer operating costs under control. If you have any questions, please call Joe Bucior, Utilities Superintendent, at 301-475-9791.

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 2023 will be September 8th or 9th, December 7th or 8th.

# PLANNING and ZONING NEWS

Attention New and Existing **Businesses** – New businesses required to obtain are Commercial Use and Occupancy (U&O) Permit through the Town prior to obtaining a business or trader license from the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. No business should be conducted in Leonardtown without first obtaining a Commercial U&O. If you are an etxisting 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.







Commissioners of Leonardtown

P.O. Box 1 22670 Washington Street Leonardtown, Maryland 20650 PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID LEONARDTOWN, MD PERMIT NO. 16

## LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Events Coordinator Aris Nazarova - Hi, there! My name is Aris and I am honored to have been selected for this position and eagerly look forward to serving our community as the Town of Leonardtown's Events Coordinator.



I spent my childhood and teenage years in St.

Mary's County and I'm a graduate of Leonardtown High School (Go Raiders!). I moved to Virginia for school and I received my Bachelors in Food Service Management and Masters of Business Administration. I started in hospitality and transformed into new roles such as business analyst, creative director, events coordinator, and business developer.

After nearly a decade away, fate brought me back to Maryland in January 2023. I'm ecstatic to be working for the Town of Leonardtown and working alongside such wonderful people. Maryland has always been my home, and I'm glad to be back in the community that raised me.



When I'm not working, you can find me in my garden, playing with my cats, dancing, or taking a stroll in the park. If you see me around, don't be afraid to say hello! I look forward to serving our Town and meeting the people who truly make Leonardtown a Most Exceptional Place.

Main Street Manager Emily Stagner - Emily, originally born and raised in Charles County, is a Maryland girl through and through! After having moved to Florida in 2004, she was thrilled to relocate back to her home state in 2021 and raise her family here. She appreciates the diverse culture of St. Mary's County and is excited to help Leonardtown grow and develop over the upcoming years while maintaining the downtown feel and beautiful historic parts that we all love. Emily enjoys being outside, attending local events with her husband and daughter, and is a member of the St. Mary's County Commission for Women.

Beacon Editor & Contact: Beth Sandberg • 301-475-9791 \*202

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