



SPRING 2025



Leonardtown *Beacon*

The Comprehensive Plan update is the culmination of many hours of work over multiple years by many people. We would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful community volunteers who serve on various committees for the Town. Your dedication and hard work make a difference, and we couldn't achieve what we do without you. We appreciate your time, commitment, and willingness to go the extra mile. Each of you plays a vital role in our community, and we appreciate your willingness to go above and beyond.

A huge thank you to this year's Comprehensive Plan Committee: Tom Collier, Heather Earhart, Doug Isleib, Sean Lawson, and Mike Mummaugh. Other committees who participated in the process were the Main Street Advisory Board: Katie Folger, Chair, Ebon Jackson, Vice Chair, Terry Bonnevier, Wednesday Davis, Gerri L'Heureux, Jimmy Hayden, Kiera Johnson, Thomas McKay, Brian Shepard and Katherine Stormont. And finally, the Planning and Zoning Commission members: Jean Moulds, Chair, Laura Shultz, Vice Chair, Doug Isleib, Sean Lawson and Andrew Ponti. Your insight, expertise and collaborative spirit have been invaluable in drafting a vision plan for the next decade for Leonardtown.

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**FIRST FRIDAY ALL WEEKEND,
EVERY MONTH**

May through October

Celebration of "First Fridays"

Historic Downtown & Uptown Leonardtown

COASTAL ARTS MARKET

April – June, September 17th,

October 8th, November 12th

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Leonardtown Wharf

SPRING FLING CAR SHOW

Sunday, May 4th

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Downtown Leonardtown

PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

May 16th – May 18th

Downtown Leonardtown

HOMETOWN HEROES

CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 7th

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Leonardtown Square

STORYTIME IN THE PARK

Friday, June 13th

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

LTown Alley

STORYTIME IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 14th

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Port of Leonardtown Park

2025 EVENT SEASON

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

VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events



Mayor's Message

As you will find in this edition of The Beacon, Leonardtown has been in the process of updating its State-mandated ten-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Town Council and I have worked for several years on the basis of this plan with the 2019 Downtown Strategic Plan and the 2022 Downtown Plan Phase II West Side and Waterfront Plan. These plans laid the

groundwork for the Comprehensive Plan Committee to finalize a draft Comprehensive Plan that is now moving forward to Public Hearings and adoption.

Leonardtown plays an important role in the economy of St. Mary's County. Leonardtown is the only municipality in St. Mary's and is one of two Development Districts designated by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. The purpose of the Development District designation is to allow for much of the needed growth in areas already served by public water and sewer, therefore; protecting and preserving the rural character of the remaining areas of the County.

The Town does not go out and pursue land to be annexed into the Town but instead is approached by landowners and builders who want to develop land that can easily be served by public utilities that are unavailable and unplanned in the outlying areas around the Town. The State of Maryland has strict regulations regarding the process for annexations and how the effects of those annexations are mitigated. As part of the Comprehensive Plan towns are required to indicate any land that may be considered for future growth of the Town. The committee put a great deal of effort into their recommendation and put forward a draft that includes residential growth in areas that are already in the Development District and have multiple means of road access to alleviate the burden on Rt. 5 and Rt. 245 (both owned by the State) that bisect the Town, as well as light commercial growth in areas that are already zoned for commercial use in the County.

Leonardtown is where small, local businesses come to flourish. These businesses rely on managed growth. The Council and its many volunteer boards, like the Planning and Zoning Board and the Main Street committee, work tirelessly to ensure we remain a vibrant, event-filled, walkable community.

Leonardtown has become a desired community for the people working in our important defense industry. The Town will play an important role in any future BRAC efforts to keep Patuxent River Naval Air Station, just like it did in 2005.

We hope you will take the opportunity to go on the Town website and review the Draft Comprehensive Plan and be part of the future of this wonderful community.

Water Quality Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report:

[www.leonardtown.somd.com/](http://www.leonardtown.somd.com/government/CCRReport-current.pdf)

government/CCRReport-current.pdf



LEONARDTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Leonardtown Business Association (LBA) proudly celebrates 25 years of fostering growth and collaboration within our business community. Over the past quarter-century, the LBA and the town have formed a remarkable partnership, working hand-in-hand to support local businesses and enhance the vibrancy of Leonardtown. This year, we are excited to place a special emphasis on collaboration, encouraging our members to come together, share ideas, and create innovative solutions that benefit us all. Join us in celebrating this milestone and embracing a future of continued partnership and success!



We invite you to join us for our monthly meetings held on the 2nd Friday of each month at Town Hall. Doors open at 8:15 AM, with the meeting beginning at 8:30 AM. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members, discuss important topics, and collaborate on initiatives that benefit our community. We look forward to seeing you there!

PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

May 16th - May 18th

Downtown Leonardtown



Get ready for an adventure-filled weekend in Leonardtown! Participants will have the weekend to explore, discover, and snap photos that fit a variety of fun and creative categories. Whether you're capturing the beauty of nature, showcasing quirky moments, or staging clever shots, it's all about creativity and exploration!

Complete as many categories as you can, then submit your best shots for a chance to win! Winners in each category will be featured in a special gallery show and the photos will be the face of the new Leonardtown cards. It's a perfect way to enjoy the weekend, get inspired, and share your perspective!

STORYTIME IN THE PARK

June 13th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

LTown Alley

Gather your little ones and join us for an outdoor reading adventure at Storytime in the Park! Enjoy a delightful evening filled with captivating tales, interactive storytelling, and a whole lot of fun, all under the beautiful open sky. Bring a blanket or chairs, and enjoy quality time with your family in a serene and welcoming environment.

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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*
Jeanine Harrington, *Asst. Town Administrator*
Sharon Strand, *Treasurer*
Beth Sandberg, *Office/Procurement Manager*
Jennifer Misner, *Main Street Manager*
Angie Graves, *Fiscal Specialist*
Jackie Post, *Senior Fiscal Specialist*
Teri Dimsey, *Executive Secretary*
Mike Bailey, *Planning & Zoning*
Donna Page, *Receptionist*
Aris Nazarova, *PR & Event Coordinator*
Joann Mercer, *Office Assistant*
Tony Wheatley, *Capital Projects 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*
Daniel Rajkowski, *Operator Trainee*
Kyle Shepherd, *Operator*

Planning & Zoning Board Members

Jean Moulds, *Chair*
Doug Isleib
Sean Lawson
Andrew Ponti
Laura Schultz
Heather Earhart, *Alternate*

Board of Appeals

Arnika Eskeland
Tawny LaQuay
Charles Breck
Robert "Bob" Wentworth
Bennett Wilson

Meetings

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

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

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:

January 20	Martin Luther King Day
February 17	President's Day
April 18	Good Friday
May 26	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth
July 4	Independence Day
September 1	Labor Day
October 13	Columbus Day
November 11	Veteran's Day (observed)
November 27	Thanksgiving
November 28	Day After Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day

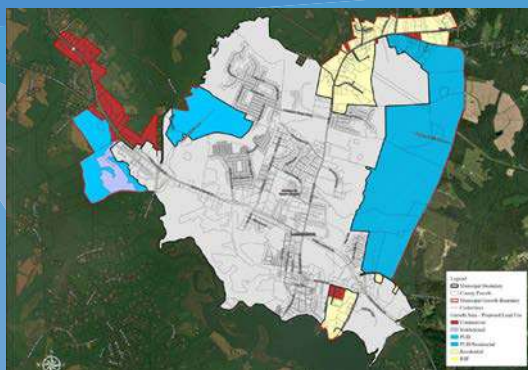
Comprehensive Plan Update 2025 from cover



The Town of Leonardtown has initiated its comprehensive plan update, which is a long-range guide to strengthen our community over the next 10 years through land use planning, preservation and investment.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

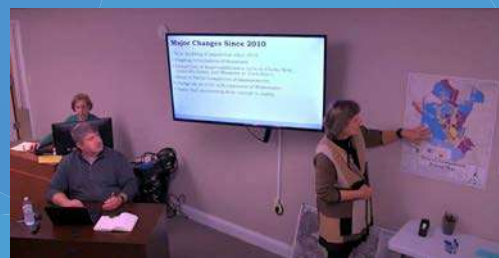
A comprehensive plan is a document, officially adopted by the local governing body, which spells out the way a municipality, county or sub-area of a county must develop. The plan has legal significance in that zoning, provision of water and sewer, and other local actions must be consistent with its recommendations. State law requires that the comprehensive plan must be reviewed every ten (10) years.



The overall vision for the Town of Leonardtown's Comprehensive Plan is to maintain the town's unique charm and character while embracing land use and growth management practices on principles agreed upon by the residents and Town officials to achieve balanced development.

Key elements of this vision include:

- A vital and thriving downtown.
- A sustained appreciation and commitment to the protection of the town's historic resources.
- Broader public access to waterfront resources and enhancing the sense of identity as a "waterfront" community.
- Provision of a wide range of services and events that support and enrich the quality of life for both Town and County residents, including infrastructure, green spaces, and facilities that promote outdoor activities.
- Management of anticipated growth to shape its form, scale, and qualities to protect and preserve the "small town" character.



Main Elements

- › Land Use
- › Housing
- › Transportation
- › Community Facilities
- › Sensitive Areas
- › Municipal Growth
- › Water Resources
- › Mineral Resources (If Applicable)
- › Fisheries (If Applicable)

Other Requirements

- › Implementation
- › Goals and Objectives
- › Development Capacity Analysis
- › Development Regulations
- › Areas of Critical State Concern

Additional Elements

- › Downtown Development
- › Community Character and Design
- › Town Waterfront

Comprehensive Plan Update 2025

What's Included in the Comp Plan?

Section 1 - Introduction and Overview

- Comprehensive Plan Overview and Process
- History of the Town
- Community Profile

Section 3 - Environment, Infrastructure and Growth

- **Water Resources** - Maintain a safe and adequate water supply and improve water quality
- **Sensitive Areas** - Protect the environment, promote stewardship, review and update codes
- **Transportation Element** - Improve sidewalks, required road connections, promote bikeways
- **Municipal Growth Element** - Support SMART growth
- **Land Use Element** - Maintain community character, enhance infrastructure, encourage re-development

Section 2 - Live, Work, Play!

- Planning for Community Facilities
- Recreation and Parks initiatives
- Housing needs assessment and goals
- Downtown and Waterfront vision and goals

Section 4 - Implementation

- How the Town will implement the plan
 - Tracking Goals and Action Items



YouTube Recording (@TownofLeonardtown) October 28, 2024 - Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting

To view the draft Comprehensive Plan please scan the QR Code below or go to the Town's website at:
<https://leonardtown.somd.com/>



Come On Out! from page 2

HOMETOWN HEROES CELEBRATION

June 7th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Leonardtown Square

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, community, and gratitude as we honor the brave men and women who keep us safe every day! The Hometown Heroes Celebration Concert is a fundraiser to support our local Emergency Services Departments, and all proceeds will go directly to help them continue their vital work.

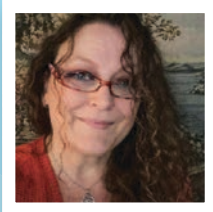
**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THESE OR OTHER EVENTS, VISIT:**

www.visitleonardtownmd.com/events



Please 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!

We want to welcome Melanie Dichter as our new Gallery Manager. Melanie brings a wide range of business management, customer service, and administrative skills. She has served as a volunteer for St. Mary's County Arts Council and is a talented visual artist. Melanie looks forward to meeting our many gallery artists and customers!



Also new to the Arts Council is intern Bell Costanzo. Bell is an undergraduate student at St. Mary's College of Maryland. As an artist, her primary mediums are traditional process and digital photography, along with printmaking. Bell also enjoys hiking, traveling, and creating. She will be with the Arts Council until early May 2025.

The Arts Council hosts special events on First Fridays including opening receptions for our upcoming Community Art Shows (Superhero Art in April, Dreamscapes in May, and Sugar Madness! in June).

Our seasonal First Friday audience participation Drum Circles, hosted by the SoMar Drummers, will restart in April with a special drumline performance scheduled on May 2nd.

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

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

Visit our website at www.smcart.org, call (240) 309-4061, or email us at info@smcart.org for details about the events listed above. Find information about grants, local artists, and more on our website.

And, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @smcartscouncil/#smcartscouncil. Let's connect!

STORYTIME IN THE PARK

June 14th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Port of Leonardtown Park

Gather your little ones and join us for an outdoor reading adventure at Storytime in the Park! Enjoy a delightful afternoon filled with captivating tales, interactive storytelling, and a whole lot of fun, all under the beautiful open sky. Bring a blanket or chairs, and enjoy quality time with your family in a serene and welcoming environment.

FIRST FRIDAY ALL WEEKEND

Leonardtown First Fridays have become so popular for residents and visitors to spend time relaxing, dining, shopping, and having fun that we will celebrate First Fridays All Weekend from April through October First Fridays!

Leonardtown Main Street



Leonardtown Main Street welcomed many new businesses to the district.

Shannon Morgan opened **Crafts N Stitches** studio that offers a range of classes from crafting, stitches, paint nights, and D&D. They offer a unique retail store with handmade blankets, soaps, gnomes, wreaths, and many other specialties.

Hailey Hicks opened **Hicks Family Creations** in Shepherd's Old Field Market. They offer fresh deli sandwiches, salads, and charcuterie boxes.

Shannon Obedoza opened **Meow Dyer Cat Café**, the first cat lounge in our county. You can purchase sessions to experience the enjoyment of playing with the cats for adoption or just for relaxation.



Latessa Daugherty opened **T & J's Cove Seafood Restaurant**. This will be our local haven of fresh seafood, hearty land-lover dishes, and a cozy dining experience. We are excited to have them join our community and believe they are a great addition to our local economy.

We are eager to support their success and look forward to having them be an active part of our neighborhood.



JOIN THE LEONARDTOWN A&E EMAIL LIST

Be in the know about upcoming events and happenings in Leonardtown. Join the Leonardtown **A&E email list** so you don't miss a moment of the fun from exciting outdoor concerts, art shows and exhibits, to First Friday activities and beloved traditional events! For more information and to subscribe email: aris.nazarova@leonardtownmd.gov.



Tristan Maday spoke to the Town Council about how local Eagle Scouts will be designing, fabricating, and placing picnic tables at the Leonardtown Wharf, which will help complete their Eagle Scout project. Each picnic table will be made of solid wood, 6 feet in length, and a sponsor name plaque will be attached to each table.

Mark Guy, of Guy Distributing, presented the Mayor and Town Council with a photo of the famous Clydesdale horses in appreciation to everyone for showcasing the beautiful Clydesdales in Leonardtown Square.

NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS THAT RESIDE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF LEONARDTOWN

THIS IS A REMINDER ABOUT AN IMPORTANT PART OF FILING YOUR MARYLAND INCOME TAX RETURN.

Just under the address label is a place for you to name St. Mary's County as where you reside. **For those living in the incorporated limits of Leonardtown, you must also write the word Leonardtown in the box right beside St. Mary's.** Additionally, your physical address should be entered in the address box. Some residents use a P. O. box as their mailing address.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A large part of the Town of Leonardtown's operating budget is local income tax. The only way to be sure that Leonardtown is receiving all it is entitled to receive is by having all residents properly complete the city, town or taxing area box when they file their Maryland income tax return. This does not increase your tax at all. It just allows for proper distribution so your income tax dollars come back to be used right here in Leonardtown.

If you use a tax preparer, please make sure they know to type **Leonardtown** in the City, town or taxing area box.

If you are not sure whether you live in the corporate limits, please call the Town office at 301-475-9791

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

As required by the Leonardtown Charter the Mayor presented his FY26 Budget to the Commissioners of Leonardtown and a public hearing was held April 14, 2025 at 4:15 pm. A copy of the draft budget is now available at <https://leonardtown.somd.com/>

The draft budget recommends property tax to maintain the current 12.03 cents per hundred of assessed value.

TRASH AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

The Town now offers 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. The trash collection schedule is as follows:

Monday and Thursday

Academy Hills – all streets	Hollywood Road
Leonard's Grant – all streets	Laverne Lane
Singletree – all streets	Mattingly Street
Eldon Court	Mile Post Lane
Greenbrier Road	Spalding Court
Henderson Drive	

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.

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 2025 will be March 6th or 7th, June 5th or 6th, September 5th or 6th, December 4th or 5th.

Items included are bicycles, sofas, tables, chairs, etc. Paint cans are considered hazardous material and will not be picked up. The gas and oil from gas-powered items must be removed, as well as refrigerant (freon) from refrigerators.

NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES

New businesses are required to obtain a Commercial Use and Occupancy (U&O) Permit through the Town before obtaining a business or trader 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 location change you are required to obtain a new Use and Occupancy Permit through the Town.

IT'S PLANTING SEASON!

With Spring upon us, we understand that planting in your yard can be very therapeutic. To ensure you are digging that tree hole in a safe place we strongly recommend contacting Miss Utility before you dig. Simply dial 811 or 1-800-257-7777 to have Miss Utility mark your property for underground utilities.



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.leonardtown.somd.com.

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

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THE DEBATE OVER PARKING



As in every small, bustling Town there is debate about parking. Too little, too far, too much asphalt, too tight of spaces, etc. There is no perfect answer; if you have all the parking spaces open right in front of the stores it is probably a different kind of problem. We are blessed that today's Leonardtown is not a sleepy little town anymore and the demand for parking is increasing. We are also thankful that the outdoor seating has been so successful that many residents of St. Mary's

County who never came to Leonardtown previously do so today because of the seating. Every day you see people of all ages, young and old, walking and enjoying all the Town has to offer.

As a result of utilizing parking and allowing outdoor seating since Covid, the Town has upgraded the alley network directly behind the businesses on Fenwick Street and around the Square. These upgrades added sidewalks and ADA-accessible access directly to these businesses in a few short steps. Additional handicapped parking spaces were created as well as adding and upgrading some spaces around the Square. Beautiful artwork and lighting enhance the short walk. We continue to look for and plan for improvements to enhance the parking in Town. Wayfinding signage was added in 2022 to help both vehicles and pedestrians find parking and their way around town. Improvements are constantly being sought out and implemented to make people safer and have parking as convenient as possible. Research and planning are being done for a future parking structure as part of the Downtown Plan. In hopes of helping all residents to be aware of available parking please see the map on page 11 to familiarize the many alternatives to parking when you visit Leonardtown.

Leonardtown Butterfly Trail



Leonardtown's "Butterfly Trail" is coming to life, with butterfly-friendly flowers, shrubs, and trees throughout town. Eventually, we hope to have pollinator gardens, large and small, all the way from the library's "Front Yard" to CSM to the wharf, in neighborhood yards, at businesses, and schools.

In 2024, new plantings were installed in the garden bed outside the St. Mary's County Arts Council office and the "Parkette" between Social and New View Fiber Works. These gardens demonstrate how native plants, ones that have evolved or adapted to our local environment for thousands of years, can make lovely additions to our home landscapes, even if their names sometimes include the word "weed"!

Native plants benefit our gardens, and are the foundation of healthy ecosystems, by providing food for insects and birds, improving air quality, and effectively absorbing water. Once established, native plants tend to need less water and little to no fertilizer or pesticides, compared to non-native ornamentals.

Visit the Butterfly Trail table display, at the Parkette on "Blooming First Friday" on May 2nd, to learn about incorporating native plants in your home garden. Go to wildones.org for information about choosing natives, planning gardens, and more.

Author, Amy Henerson

Member, St. Mary's County Garden Club

Town of Leonardtown - Downtown Parking Map

<https://leonardtown.somd.com>



Leonardtown Wharf



Commissioners of Leonardtown
P.O. Box 1
22670 Washington Street
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

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