



# 2011 at Your Library



## Dear Library Customer,

On behalf of the Library Board and staff, I am pleased to present the Library's 2011 Annual Report. Our county residents continue to make the library an essential part of their lives. There were 75,400 registered borrowers checked out 1,483,368 items. St. Mary's County Library continues to rank #4 in the state for the number of items checked out per resident. We also have the two busiest libraries in all of Southern Maryland: Lexington Park and Leonardtown check out more items than the other 8 library branches.

Your library staff took the initiative to seek out other funding sources. They secured a \$90,000 grant which allowed us to upgrade the sound system and to install video and audio conferencing in the Lexington Park meeting rooms. The staff also secured a state capital grant of \$875,000 and we continue to work with the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that these funds will be spent to improve our library facilities.

Thank you to the elected officials who support their county library system, our very active Friends of the Library Board members, and the many local residents who made donations to purchase more materials or for special projects such as Dr. Julia King's donation for the Midge Cannetti collection.

Finally, and most importantly, THANKS to you, our valued library customers. It is you who make the library your community hub for learning, discovering and relaxing!

**Alan E. Dillingham, President**  
**St. Mary's County Board of Library Trustees**

Pictured above are Board members (seated left to right) Vice President Joan Springer, President Alan Dillingham, and Treasurer Carole Romary; (standing left to right) Lynn Newkirk, Everlyn Holland, Carolyn Guy, and Dan Burris.

## Improved Services

- Video/audio conferencing and an improved sound system were installed in Lexington Park's meeting rooms. This was made possible through a \$90,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services with Library Services and Technology Act funds through the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Library Development and Services.
- A new website was designed and launched, improving access to the library's many online resources. The website averages 10,000 hits per month.
- More Active Learning Centers were installed at all three libraries, providing opportunities for parents to enjoy meaningful play with their children while also helping them develop early reading skills.
- The eReader went viral at your library: a variety of different eReaders were purchased for customers to try in the library, eBook workshops were conducted, and individual eReader instruction was provided.
- Credit card payment was made available. Online credit card payments are planned for next year.
- Online registration for new library cards and renewal of current cards was started.
- Use of the meeting rooms by businesses for a fee of \$25 per hour was introduced. Use by non-profit organizations and individuals continues to be free.



## Donations

- Dr. Julia King made a donation in honor of her mother-in-law Midge Cannetti who was a Reference Librarian at Lexington Park from 1959 to 1984. The donation provided sufficient funds to create *The Midge Cannetti Reference and Grant Seeker Resource Center*.



- The Friends of the Library (FOL) had another banner year raising funds. They introduced the Fall Mini Book Sale which raised \$3,000. The March Mega Book Sale at the County Fairgrounds raised \$29,000. Pictured are FOL Board members: (seated left to right) Connie Stoker, Alice Dougherty, Mary Kukla; (standing left to right) Trish Parkinson, Dave Roberts, President Louise Snell, Secretary Sue Gibbs and Jill Zitnick. Not pictured: Sara Fisher, Annette Madel, Joan Marsh, Vice President Joe Mattingly, and Treasurer Phyllis Krasnokutsky.

## Fiscally Responsible

- Our operating cost for each item checked out continues to be the lowest in Southern Maryland, at \$2.37 per item checked out.
- The fee schedule was revised for the first time in more than 10 years to encourage the return of materials and to raise revenue to purchase more materials.
- 264 volunteers provided 5,526 hours of service to help staff with a variety of tasks and special projects.



## Partners

- School Spirit Days were held this summer to combat the "summer reading gap" with 7 schools participating. A total of 329 students and 76 teachers enjoyed library tours, scavenger hunts, and crafts. All elementary and middle schools will be invited to participate next summer.



- The children who attend the 3 Head Start Centers experience the joy of owning their very own book! Twice a year, the library staff give a book to each of the 150 children.
- Lexington Park Library hosted an archaeological exhibit featuring artifacts found throughout the county and stored at Maryland

Archaeological Conservation Lab. The exhibit was developed by Maryland Historical Trust and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

- Many of the staff participate in local organizations: Commission for People with Disabilities, Early Childhood Team, Highway Safety Program, Homeless Prevention Board, Judy Center, Leonardtown Business Association, Lexington Park Business Association, Local Management Board, and more.

## Busiest Year Ever!

Items checked out	1,483,368	<b>We continue to be #4 in the state for the number of items checked out per resident!</b>	
Visitors	665,962		
Cardholders	75,400		
Programs	37,000 attended	1,300 programs	
Volunteers	264 provided	5,526 hours	
Facebook Fans	1,035		
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
County	\$2,281,038	Staff	75%
State	623,940	Technology	5%
Fines/Fees	265,450	Materials	15%
Total	\$3,170,428	Other	10%

## Your Libraries

Charlotte Hall, 37600 New Market Rd, Charlotte Hall 301-884-2211  
 Leonardtown, 23250 Hollywood Rd, Leonardtown 301-475-2846  
 Lexington Park, 21677 FDR Blvd, Lexington Park 301-863-8188

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 AM –8 PM; Friday-Saturday 9 AM–5 PM

Director Kathleen Reif, kreif@stmalib.org or 301-475-2846 x1013

January 2012

