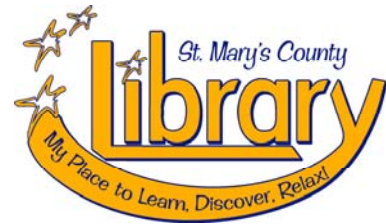
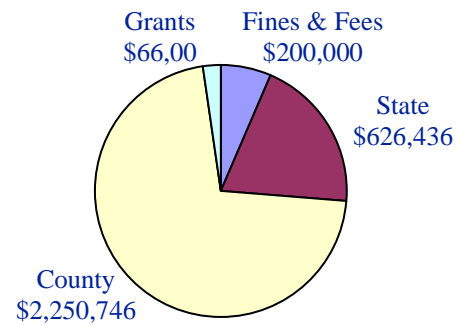


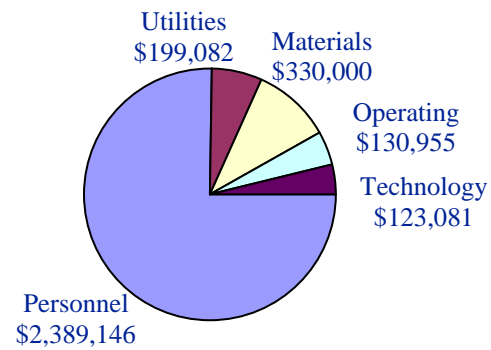
A Valuable Investment



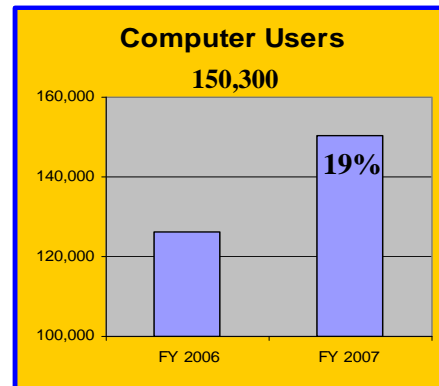
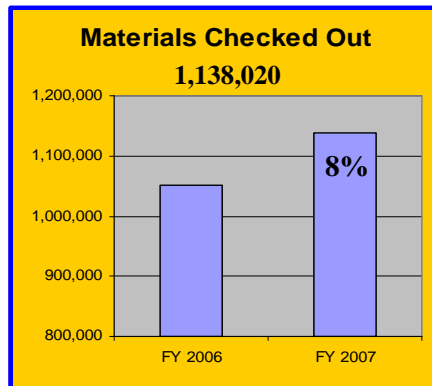
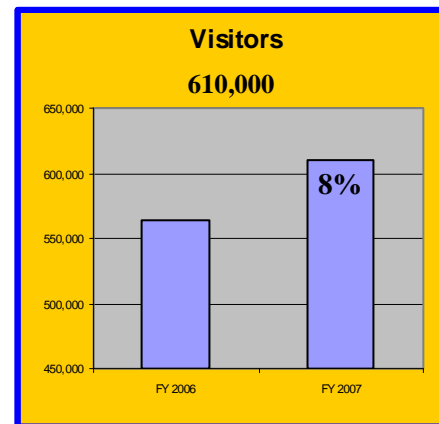
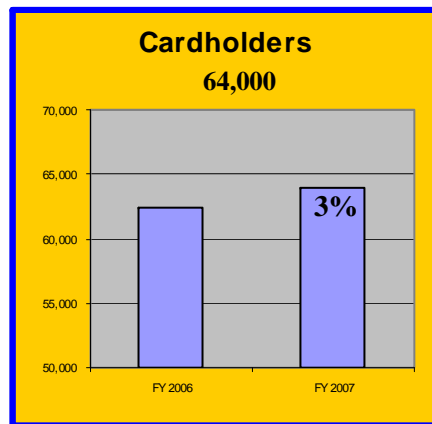
Income FY 2008



Expenses FY 2008



Business Statistics FY 2007



Thank you to our federal, state, and local elected officials for their continued support of library funding. And, most importantly, thanks to you, our St. Mary's County taxpayers!

Your library is just minutes away....



Charlotte Hall Library
37600 New Market Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-2211



Leonardtown Library
23250 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-2846



Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd.
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-863-8188

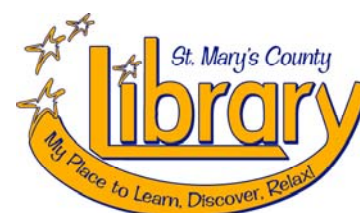


WoW! Storytime Van
A special service for childcare providers
301-475-2846 x1011

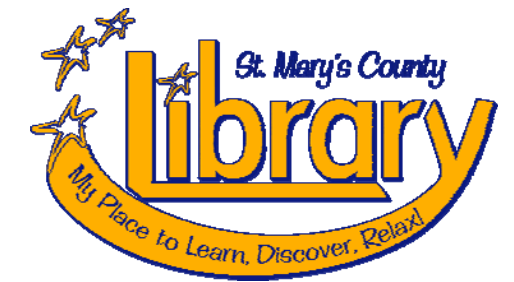
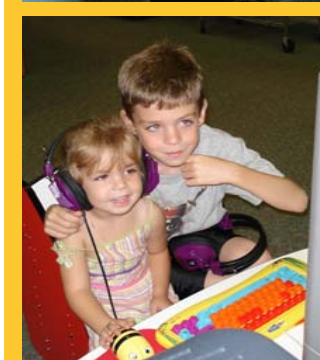
Hours
Mon-Thurs 9 am – 8 pm
Fri-Sat 9 am – 5 pm
Sun (Lexington Park only) 1 pm – 5 pm

or a click away...
www.stmalib.org

Board of Library Trustees
Pictured on lower right front cover
(Seated left to right) Treasurer Joan Springer, President Alan Dillingham, Vice-President Janice Briscoe. (Standing) Daniel Burris, Everlyn Holland, Joseph Bush, Carole Romary



April 2008



*Serving a
Community
of Learners
and Readers*

**A Report
to our
Community
2008**



Education

“...The General Assembly finds that public library resources and services are essential components of the educational system...”
Education Article of the Annotated Code of MD § 23-101

The Library Board and staff are committed to providing services for the education of county residents through all stages of their lives.



- WoW! backpacks were created to provide parents and caregivers with age-appropriate materials to share with their preschoolers. Each backpack contains books, CDs, and activity sheets focused on a theme. There are 200 backpacks with 100 different themes available for check-out at each of the libraries.
- WoW! (Words on Wheels) Storytime Van visits 68 childcare providers every month, providing materials and stories to the many children who cannot visit their libraries for storytime.
- Lexington Park Library's Computer Lab continued to be in constant use by either library staff or community groups conducting a variety of computer classes.

- TAGs (Teen Advisory Groups) were formed at each branch to reach out to teens. The teens meet monthly to plan programs, discuss books, and design the library's MySpace page. During Teen Tech Week, the TAG members hosted family game nights and played Wii games with gamers of all ages.



- Science programs provided hands-on workshops for school-age children. The *Weird Weather* program featured a variety of experiments which demonstrated the power of Mother Nature, including a “Tornado in a Bottle.”
- The library's website continues to provide resources 24/7 for homework and research. The library subscribes to more than 35 databases covering current events, science, business, history and health.

- Parents who home school their children are an ever-increasing segment of our population. This past year, the three libraries hosted an open house and classes for these students.



Partnership

Collaboration with community partners is the critical factor in keeping your library growing and thriving.

- BAE SYSTEMS continued to provide graphic support for library programs and promotions, maintenance of the WiFi networks which they installed in the three libraries, and an annual monetary donation.



- The Boeing Company sponsored several programs to promote the development of reading skills in school-age children.

- College of Southern Maryland secured a grant from National Endowment for the Arts to bring The Big Read to Southern Maryland.

The library hosted a variety of events to encourage the reading and discussion of *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines.

- The St. Mary's County Women's Club continued to work with library staff in providing homebound services.

- The County's Department of Economic & Community Development worked with the Lexington Park Library staff to create an oral and written history of Lexington Manor/"Flat Tops," an historically significant neighborhood.



Convenience

Library staff design services with the understanding that our customers lead very busy lives.

- The Internet Branch, www.stmalib.org, is always open! Some of the online services available include:
 - Downloadable audio books and movies with more titles being added each year
 - Email notification of holds and overdue items
 - More than 35 online databases and information resources
- Self check-out continues to be very popular with our customers; 25-30% choose to use this convenience.
- Lexington Park's Library Café, under new management by the Werner family, provides fresh coffee and tea as well as homemade baked goods and sandwiches.



Technology

Today's library is only as strong as the staff who design and manage its technology resources and communications network.

- Our library system has an exceptionally strong staff to guide this core component of your library's services. The library staff is supported by a valuable partnership with St. Mary's County Information Technology (IT) Department. Working together results in cost effective and



high-speed Internet access for all of our customers at all three libraries.

- Leading the library's IT staff is Robert Palmer, shown with the IT staff (left to right): Brian Wohlers, County IT

Department Network Manager Mark Stancliff, Ryan Blizek, County IT Technician Tom Van Cleaf, Dennis Gilliken, Robert Palmer and Dan Cusick. (Not shown, Richard Conklin)

- An *Information Technology Plan* was created in collaboration with the other Southern Maryland county libraries and the regional library. This document will guide the allocation of resources for technology services during the next five years.
- In December 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded the library a grant of \$18,200 provided the library raised \$10,400 by June 2009. These funds will be used to purchase more PCs for public use. The Library Board decided to raise the funds from local businesses and individuals. As of April 2008, more than \$7,700 had been raised.

Capital Projects

The Board of County Commissioners and the County Department of Public Works continue to invest in the library facilities through the capital improvements budget.

- Additional lighting was installed in Lexington Park's parking lot to improve the visibility for our evening customers.
- The County's 2009 capital improvement budget includes \$180,000 for the design study of a new Leonardtown Library.
- The Leonardtown Library building project received a grant from the State Library Capital Grants Program for 2009.

