

January – April 2019



FOUNDATION

Thank You!

Thank you for your support of our new St Mary's County Library Foundation this year! Thanks to your generosity, we are ready to contribute over \$20,000 to the building of the NEW Leonardtown Library

Our fundraisers and our second gala event at Tudor Hall have been very well received. Thanks again to our wonderful sponsors, **Library Interiors, Inc.**, and **Community Bank of the Chesapeake**

Thanks too, to our generous vendors, **Bailey Catering**, **Port of Leonardtown Winery**, **David's Flowers**, and **Printing Press, Inc.**, and to **St. Mary's County Historical Society** for the use of lovely Tudor Hall.

We appreciate "Schooner" level donations from **SMECO**, **Williams, McClernan, and Stack, LLC**, and **Ms. Mary Wood**. Thanks, too, to **Olde Town Pub** for supporting us with two generous fundraisers, with a third happening on May 23rd, 2019. Just come to the pub for any purchase, including takeout, and we benefit!

It's Official

2018 was the rainiest year in St. Mary's County recorded history. The remnants of three hurricanes, several other storms, and many rainy days have certainly complicated progress on the new Leonardtown Library.



We are nevertheless making substantial progress, especially in 2019 with some drier weather. The concrete slab, with underlying data, electric, and water lines, is finished. The steel "skeleton" of the building is also done. The exterior walls are underway. We expect to have a "closing in" ceremony, with the building closed to the elements, in late August. We are still targeting a late 2019 opening. We hope you will join us!

<https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/st-marys-county-library-foundation/>

Other Library News

Of course, the new Leonardtown Library is not the only thing worthy of notice. It has been a busy 2019, with a growing collection and great programming.



The library offers over 500,000 digital items: e-books, digital audio, music, movies and television shows. Over 84,018 digital items were checked out last year, with e-books increasing 18% and other formats 91%. There is a great list of online resources, with accurate information and help for homework, general information, language learning, genealogy, business and business plans, investments, and hobbies.

The library helps make kids literate, beginning when they are babies. In 2017 there were 582 storytime events attended by 15,787 children and parents, and there were 100 programs for ages 6-11, with an attendance of 4,381

Adults are not ignored. Last year there were 243 adult programs, attended by 1,600 people. These included technology and computer classes, health and wellness education, crafting sessions, book discussions and forums on national issues. Libraries are safe places to learn, discuss challenging topics and find opportunities to improve communities.

The library also partnered with Saint Mary's County Schools, St. Mary's Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., Community Mediation of St. Mary's, and St. Mary's County Health Department to offer Opioid Awareness and Prevention Programming, a "Longest Table" community event to "Choose Civility, and "Dismantling Racism" programming, including movie showings, community conversations, and a visit with McClernan, Williams, and Stack attorneys that resulted in over 100 people investigating if minor convictions can be expunged, allowing them to vote, more easily get jobs, and be productive citizens.

The library also started a program in which incarcerated parents are recorded reading and their children then get a copy of the book to read along, not only fostering literacy but strengthening family ties.

Got a question? Ask a librarian. "The best search engine in the library is a librarian," as they are fond of saying. Last year, over 32,000 questions were answered, including help with job applications, consumer and financial help, and suggestions for great reads.

The county libraries offer free wi-fi and the computers to go with it, because they believe you should not have to buy something first to go on wi-fi. Last year there were 84,857 computer uses and 49,427 wi-fi sessions. Now you can even pick up a mobile hotspot at the library.

There are, of course, books and other physical items, such as CDs and DVDs. The libraries offer 250,859 items, and these items circulated 1,559,417 times. This means that every resident of St. Mary's County averaged 14 items per year, saving an average of about \$210 per person per year, as compared to buying the items.

Taking this sort of figuring a bit further, the library reckons that for every dollar the county invests in the library, the library returns \$5 to county residents in goods and services.