



2013 Board of County Commissioners' State of the County Executive Summary September, 2013



Vision

It is the responsibility of St. Mary's County Government to preserve and enhance the quality of life by recognizing and protecting the unique character of St. Mary's County as a rural Chesapeake Bay peninsula; foster economic growth and create an atmosphere of excellence by focusing and managing growth to create vibrant, attractive communities; by protecting the rural character and economy of the countryside, nurture the shoreline and adjacent waters and preserve and capitalize on the other natural resources and historical qualities of the County.

Responsible and Accountable to the County's Citizens

Budget: The \$222.6 million approved budget reflects no increase in County tax rates. Public safety and education were key funding priorities for the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff's Office received a 6% increase in County allocation. St. Mary's County Public Schools received \$89.9 million, a \$6.5 million budget increase. In addition, the capital budget includes funding for construction of the new Captain Francis Walter Duke Elementary School and an additional \$9.9 million for renovations to Spring Ridge Middle School. The Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad will become the home of the Sheriff's new community policing division for Lexington Park. Sunday hours are restored at the Lexington Park Library and \$1.8 million was budgeted to renovate the 19,500 square foot Leonardtown Library. This year's allocation to the College of Southern Maryland allows for the creation of a Non Profit Institute and a Veterans Affairs Coordinator.

Provide High Quality, Cost Effective and Efficient Services

FDR Boulevard: To relieve congestion in the MD 235 corridor, construction of the section between MD 4 to Pegg Road will be completed. Another section of the roadway is under construction between MD 246 and South Shangri-La Drive. This section will feature new sidewalks, curb and gutter, landscaping and improved access to the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, the Lexington Park Library, Lexington Park Elementary School, several surrounding businesses and the new Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad facility.

Transportation Development Plan: The Commissioners approved the Plan to streamline routes for the local St. Mary's County Transit System (STS) without fare increases.

NextGen: The radio system provides the County's first responders with unprecedented interoperability with the state and neighboring counties. The radio system was activated on August 5 and includes two additional transmission towers in Valley Lee and 7th District as well as radio upgrades.

Maryland Access Point: This internet-based service was developed in conjunction with the state as a "gateway" to enhancing information and referral services for older adults and persons with disabilities.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP): RSVP gives volunteers, age 55+, the opportunity to donate their time, skill, experience and talents to their community. Last year 375 RSVP volunteers donated approximately 30,000 hours of service, valued at over \$600,000.

Local Management Board (LMB): The LMB completed a needs assessment to guide the development of a strategic plan to address the human service needs of children and families.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): Following the 2010 Census portions of St. Mary's and Calvert counties were designated as an urbanized area. Federal and state transportation planning dollars will be available.

Preserve the County's Environment, Heritage and Rural Character

Arts and Entertainment District: The Town of Leonardtown received the region's first Arts and Entertainment District designation.

"Less Drive-Time, More My Time": Campaign launched to encourage increased day and weekend trips to St. Mary's County.

2013 Board of County Commissioners' State of the County Executive Summary September, 2013

Preservation: The County preserved 200 acres in land conservation easements to support local agriculture. The Patuxent River Neighborhood Preservation Program will upgrade and replace aging infrastructure in this 1948 subdivision.

Agriculture Services Center: Provides a “one-stop-shop” for agriculture services, including the Soil Conservation District, Cooperative Extension Office and the County’s Agriculture Services Division. The County’s Farmer’s Markets topped \$1 million in total sales, including sales from the recently opened Home Grown Farm Market.

Patuxent River Naval Air Museum & Visitors Center: Awarded contract for a new 20,860 square foot center using over \$3.37 million in federal and state grants as well as private sector funding.

Shoreline Protection: This project leveraged over \$275,000 in low interest loans to complete the Thomas Road (on St. George’s Island) and Gibson Road (on White Neck Creek) revetment projects.

Three Notch Trail: The trail is a 10 ft. wide multi-use trail on the former railway right-of-way. With the most recent five-mile extension approved, it will be nearly 11 continuous miles long.

The Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park: The capital project for the park and museum includes preservation and restoration of the masonry, windows and doors of the 1836 Lighthouse and Keeper’s Quarters.

Recreation and Parks: Three new multi-purpose athletic fields are under construction adjacent to 5th District Park in Charlotte Hall. The Paralympic Sport, Southern Maryland Program was initiated to allow youth and adults with physical and visual disabilities to participate in ongoing sports and physical activities.

Foster opportunities for future generations

Lexington Park Master Plan: The Plan update is well underway and works through the complexities of population growth planning for future infrastructure needs, business promotion and land use. Upon completion it will provide an attractive area in balance with NAS Patuxent River.

Economic Development: The Board of County Commissioners approved funding for the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is working with the County to provide a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) analysis. The County recognizes the Navy as the key economic engine and will use the strategic planning to chart a course for diversifying the local economy. The University of Maryland submitted a proposal to use the St. Mary’s County Regional Airport for Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The County executed a \$543,327 grant agreement with the FAA to design the Airport Road, Lawrence Hayden Road and Taxiway A relocations at the St. Mary’s County Regional Airport.

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett,
County Administrator

Tony Jones,
Public Information Officer

Sue Sabo,
*Chief of Staff and
Director,
Human Resources*

George Erichsen, P.E.,
*Director
Public Works and
Transportation*

Bob Kelly,
*Director
Emergency Services and Technology*

Phil Shire,
*Director,
Land Use and
Growth Management*

Robin Finnacom,
*Acting Director
Economic and Community
Development*

Elaine Kramer,
Chief Financial Officer

George Sparling,
County Attorney

Lori Jennings-Harris,
*Director
Aging and Human Services*

Brian Loewe,
*Director
Recreation and Parks*



*St. Mary’s County Board of County Commissioners
Front: Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner President Francis
“Jack” Russell. Standing: Daniel L. Morris, Cynthia L. Jones,
Lawrence D. Jarboe*

