

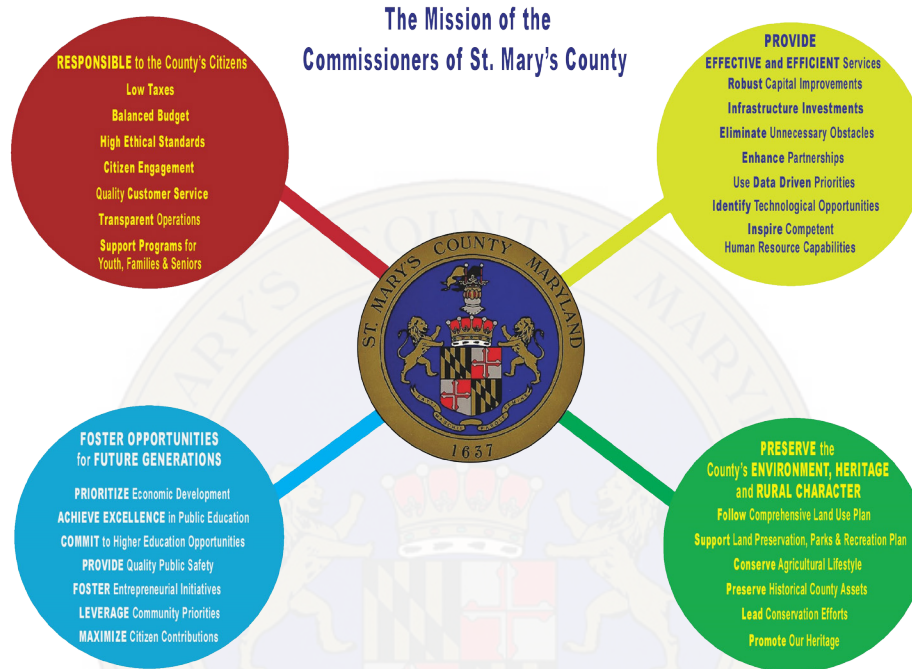


Commissioners of St. Mary's County State of the County Executive Summary September, 2016



The Mission of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will be responsible to the county's citizens; Provide Effective and Efficient Services; Preserve the county's Environment, Heritage and Rural Character and Foster Opportunities for Future Generations. Commissioner objectives are based on the following criteria:



Responsible and Accountable to the County's Citizens

Budget: The commissioners approved a general fund budget of \$222.1 million, a 2.3% decrease over FY2016. Real property tax revenues grew at a modest 1.6% as the constant yield tax rate was not adjusted. Income tax rates remain unchanged at 3%. Revenues from income taxes are projected to grow 2.7% over FY2016. Operating and capital budgets place a focus on the commissioner priorities of public safety and education. Sheriff's Office Correctional officers received a 7% pay hike while Sworn employees received a 9.8% pay raise. As part of the county's capital improvements project plan, the county sold \$25 million in general obligation bonds for the first time since 2009. St. Mary's County Public Schools received a \$4.6 million funding increase, bringing the county's total allocation to over \$102 million. The commissioners allotted \$2.9 million in CIP Pay-Go for a one-time replacement of Technology and Science Books. When state funding is factored in, St. Mary's County Public Schools realized an increase of \$7.4 million over FY2016. County funding for Non-Profits is budgeted in Aging and Human Services, Economic Development, and Recreation and Parks depending on their content area. Total funding for Non-Profits in FY2017 is \$1.1 million.

Provide High Quality, Cost Effective and Efficient Services

Leonardtown Library and Garvey Senior Activity Center Facility: The county has worked closely with an architect and community stakeholders on a concept plan for the 48,000 square foot replacement facility. Groundbreaking and construction are planned for FY2018.

St. Mary's County Airport Master Plan: Work to provide increased separation between the taxiway and runway began. Final design of Lawrence Hayden Road was completed. Once this work is complete it will extend the current runway an additional 1,200 feet. This will be enough space to accommodate small corporate aircraft. Grants from the Federal and Maryland Aviation Administrations will cover 95% of costs.

St. Mary's County Airport Improvements: Private sector development has yielded six of eleven new hangar structures. At final build out, the airport will have over 100,000 square feet of available space.

FDR Boulevard Extension: Work on construction of FDR Boulevard, between Kinnegad Drive in the Hickory Hills subdivision to Chancellors Run Road, began in the spring. The next phase of construction, from the existing FDR Boulevard in the First Colony development to just west of Old Rolling Road, is also underway.



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Sheriff District 4 Office: In order to respond to growing community requests to enhance the Sheriff's presence along the Great Mills Road corridor, the county acquired the former Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad building. In FY2017 \$2.2 million will be used to renovate the building to provide space for processing, meeting and conference rooms, three holding cells, two interview rooms, a roll call and training room, break room, evidence bay and storage.

Adult Detention Center Upgrades: Commissioners approved the design, renovation and upgrades to the HVAC system and security. In FY2017, \$685,569 is designated for the design phase of an additional 64 bed housing unit and medical services unit.

Preserve the County's Environment, Heritage and Rural Character

Preservation: Through programs such as Rural Legacy Areas, Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Program (MALPF) and the Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI), the county preserved more than 817 acres in land conservation easements to support local agriculture.

Three Notch Trail: Ribbon was cut on Phase VI of the trail. The new section of the 10 ft. wide trail provides nearly 11 continuous miles for walking, jogging and biking in northern St. Mary's County.

Lancaster Park Improvements: Construction began on two new multi-purpose athletic fields, parking and a new entrance along Willows Road. Work is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2017.

Foster Opportunities for Future Generations

Economic Development: The commissioners partnered with the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce to lead a delegation to Huntsville, Alabama to gain first-hand knowledge about their growing economy. Work on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), continued with a focus on ways the county can diversify the local economy. Initial findings indicate the unmanned and autonomous field as one area of opportunity for the county. To that end, the Department of Economic Development coordinated a First Responders Drone Symposium in Leonardtown with help from local defense contractors.

Tourism and Hospitality Master Plan: The Tourism Division worked with a consultant team on development of the plan. The goal is to ensure sites, attractions, restaurants and lodging resources around the county offer visitors a top level experience. The plan also focuses on areas to improve those experiences.

Code Home Rule: The commissioners hosted eight public hearings around the county about a proposed change from the current commissioner form of government to Code Home Rule. Commissioners voted to have citizens decide in the November 2016 election to approve or reject the proposal.

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett,
County Administrator

Tony Jones,
Public Information Officer

Catherine Pratson,
Director
Human Resources

L. Jeannett Cudmore,
Chief Financial Officer

Chris Kaselemis,
Director
Economic Development

Phil Shire,
Director
Land Use and
Growth Management

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

Robert Kelly,
Director
Emergency Services and Technology

George Sparling,
County Attorney

Lori Jennings-Harris,
Director
Aging and Human Services

Brian Loewe,
Director
Recreation and Parks



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

Seated: Todd B. Morgan, and President Randy Guy
Standing: Tom Jarboe, John E. O'Connor and Michael L. Hewitt

