ST. MARY'S COUNTY LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

2019 COMMUNITY IMPACT

St. Mary's County Library was busy in 2019!

The new Leonardtown Library is nearly complete, we launched our Strategic Plan process to help us better serve our community over the next 5 years, we worked closely with many new partners to produce fantastic events and programs for all ages, our digital content usage grew by 10%, we introduced 3D printers at the Leonardtown and Lexington Park Libraries with generous contributions from the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library, and we continued to provide excellent customer service and resources for everyone in our community!

1,306,358 items checked out - nearly 12 items per person in St. Mary's County!

Items checked out include children's, teen, and adult books, audiobooks, DVDs, digital content, and so much more. Did you know the St. Mary's County Library even has hotspots and ukuleles to check out?

"It's so nice to have a library at your finger tips. And so accommodating! If you don't have it, you just look through the whole state of Maryland!...And it's free!"." - Janice, Lexington Park Library

"We just moved here and we have used a lot of libraries, your selection of kids books is one of the best I've seen." - New customer at Leonardtown Library

Curious what our most popular titles were in 2019? Check out our most 'checked out' books.
- Adult Fiction: The Reckoning by John Grisham
- Adult Nonfiction: Girl, Wash Your Face by Rachel Hollis
- Children's Fiction: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck by Jeff Kinney
- Children's Picture Book: Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
- Young Adult Fiction: The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

99,501 digital items were checked out in Fiscal Year 2019.

Hoopla, Overdrive and RBdigital provide hundreds of thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, movies, music, and more all available to stream or download onto your device.

Did you know the Library has Lynda.com and Creativebug? We have access to over 60 online resources including Mango Languages, test preparation and homework help services, and a variety of resources on topics such as genealogy (we even have Ancestry.com!), hobbies, crafts, finance, and auto repair.

1,652 hours of Lynda.com training, 1,500 sessions of language learning on Mango Languages, and over 7,000 searches on Ancestry.com

"I know it sounds so corny, but I was just standing over there thinking, "I just LOVE the Library. I LOVE coming here - just being in here makes me feel so GOOD," you know? I hope you all stay open for ever, and keep helping everyone. People should just come, just come BACK to the Library. I hope libraries are a 'thing' forever! I have so many good memories of bringing my boys here when they were little. Thank you all so much!" - Jeanne, Charlotte Hall Library

588,512 people visited us!

Over 30,000 people attended over 1,200 events.

We provided free events for all ages including 589 storytimes, 272 children's events, 87 teen events, and 276 adult events. Events included professional performances, classes on topics such as crafting, finance, education, STEM, and two ethical hacking competitions!

Our meeting rooms were used 4,587 times by the public

Meeting rooms and quiet study rooms are available for the public to use for meetings, parties, study groups, tutoring, and so much more! Looking for a fun place to hold your next event? Check out meeting room availability on the Library website.

"We love the library so much!!! I've been taking my girls there since they were itty bitties to the story times!! Now, as a homeschooling mom, we are at the library at least 2x a week checking out subject area books and my 7 year old is hooked on her first chapter book series! The staff is so incredibly helpful and so enthusiastic about reading. We love the summer reading program as well as all of the other activities offered throughout the year. Thank you so much Lexington Park Library!!" - Meagan, Lexington Park Library

"It is so lovely to call and have a real, live person pick up on the other end of the phone. I love the library, you really do have the best service!" - Carolyn, Lexington Park Library

Over 120 public computers were used 83,754 times in Fiscal year 2019.

Our free-to-use public computers have internet access and Microsoft Office, and we have a workstation at each location that provides assistive technology to citizens of Maryland protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Our free WiFi was accessed 41,801 times.

In addition to computers and WiFi, we have printers at each location that can print full color, scanners, faxing capability, and laptops that can be checked out to use in the Library.

Our friendly and professional staff will help you with your technology questions! Schedule a one-on-one with one of our Public Technology Assistants to learn how to use your device, get computer help, or learn how to use Microsoft Office.

"I came here very stressed trying to retrieve a document with a time frame that was limited. Emma was extremely helpful in the computer struggles I was dealing with. I can't thank her enough. She was awesome!!" - Laura, Lexington Park Library

"I really would not have made it without you ladies at the library. I really mean it. I got that job and was able to pay my child support because of you. Thank you again." - Tony, after receiving job search help at Leonardtown Library

St. Mary's County Library has 35,322 card users

Library cards are free and you can apply online or in one of our three locations. We have a full library card which allows you to check out 75 items, and we also have a Kids' Cards option.

Kids' Cards are special cards available for our youngest residents under the age of 18, to help get library cards in the hands of children and encourage reading. Kids' Cards limit the user to five items at one time and have no fees or fines.

"You know, when I come in here, I feel like I'm coming home! You guys just treat me so well and make me feel so good!" - Jean, Leonardtown Library

"Our family will be forever grateful to all the wonderful doors that were opened way back when our little ones got their very 1st library cards just shy of their 2nd birthday. The Charlotte Hall Library became our home away from home and the unbelievable staff quickly became family. We were always welcomed lovingly and often our children were found on their bellies, perusing the books displayed at the circulation desk, oblivious to the patrons gingerly stepping over them in their pursuit to take home just the right books. We thank you for these precious memories and all you did along the way and kudos to you all for the early start with our girls' passion for books, all the amazing programs you offer and to your dedication to the betterment of our community!!" - Denise, Charlotte Hall Library

60 volunteers donated over 2,000 work hours to help us accomplish so much more!

We could not be nearly as amazing without all the dedicated support we receive from our wonderful volunteers.

"The one consistent thing in my life has been libraries." - Billy, Lexington Park Library

The New Leonardtown Library is Nearly Open!

The new Leonardtown Library is under construction at the new location off of Leonard's Grant Parkway in Leonardtown, right next to Duke Elementary School. The expected grand opening will be at the end of April 2020. The building will contain both the new 29,730 square foot Leonardtown Library and the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

The new Leonardtown Library will have two large meeting rooms, a children's activity room, 5 study rooms, a makerspace, a computer lab, a full teen area, and a special Maryland Room to hold materials of local interest. Comfortable seating and many new computers stations will also add to the welcoming atmosphere.

Through a competitive grant process, St. Mary's County Library has received $1,591,000 in funds from the Maryland County Library Grant Program to add to the County allocated funds for the new library.

Grimm and Parker (G&P) is the architecture firm for the project, and Tuckman-Barbee is fulfilling the $16.9 million construction contract, with $11 million representing the Library portion.

Thank you for an outstanding 2019!