

## GREETINGS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS...

Thank you for reading the 2008 State of the County Report. Our job is to ensure that St. Mary's County Government is financially sound and managed efficiently. We are proud to report that the men and women who staff St. Mary's County Government are working hard to meet your needs.

Our rich heritage, combined with a hearty high-tech economy and viable productive agricultural base, is widely admired. St. Mary's County remains a special place to live, work and raise a family.

We are charged with delivering cost effective services to the residents of our community and continue to focus our budget on education and public safety. We are especially proud of the many citizens who volunteer their time to serve their community. We want to continue to hear from you. Thank you for choosing the finest county as your home.

Sincerely,

Francis Jack Russell, President  
Kenneth R. Dement, District 1  
Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., District 2  
Lawrence D. Jarboe, District 3  
Daniel H. Raley, District 4

Governmental Center, P.O. Box 653, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-4200, x1300, [bocc@stmarysmd.com](mailto:bocc@stmarysmd.com)

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT is needed. St. Mary's County is blessed with dedicated VOLUNTEERS generously donating untold hours of effective and competent service and by contributing their time and talent to the myriad of boards, committees and commissions of St. Mary's County. For more information about the commissions, log on to <http://www.stmarysmd.com/voluntr/> or call the Public Information Office at 301-475-4200 ext. 1341.

Citizens are encouraged to apply by visiting the St. Mary's County website or visit the Public Information Office, Potomac Building, 1st Floor, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650



**Picture above left to right are:**

Standing:  
County Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.  
County Commissioner Daniel H. Raley  
County Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe  
Seated:  
County Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement  
County Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell

# St. Mary's County Maryland



Board  
of  
County  
Commissioners

## 2008

# State of the County Report

MORE THAN 2,500 PAGES OF INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS...  
[www.stmarysmd.com](http://www.stmarysmd.com)

THIS NEW PATH ALONG THE WATER ON BRETON BAY IN LEONARDTOWN, PICTURED ON THE FRONT COVER, GIVES RESIDENTS NEW ACCESS TO THE WATERWAYS THAT SURROUND ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND. THE LEONARDTOWN WHARF WATERFRONT PARK OPENED IN MAY AND HAS ATTRACTED MANY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. OVER 400 MILES OF SHORELINE GRANTS OUR COMMUNITY A SPECIAL DISTINCTION AND IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR HISTORY AND OFFERS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR FUTURE.

## Of Note.....

This State of the County report illustrates only a few items of interest. For more information on county government's services, log on to [www.stmarysmd.com](http://www.stmarysmd.com). Your elected Commissioners are committed to making St. Mary's County the best place to live, anywhere.

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
St. Mary's County Government will:

Be responsive and accountable to the county's citizens;

Provide high quality, cost effective and efficient services;

Preserve the county's environment, heritage and rural character; and foster opportunities for present and future generations.

Meetings of the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners are scheduled for Tuesdays at 9 a.m. each week in the Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. Board of Commissioners meetings



*Leonardtown stood in as Capital for A Day in July. The visit by Governor Martin O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown and Cabinet Secretaries included events in Leonardtown, at a farm and at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Above, Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown explains the State's commitment to its military installations to Vice Admiral David Venlet while Commissioner President Jack Russell listens.*

are broadcast on St. Mary's County Government cable television Channel 95.

The St. Mary's County Commissioners appoint members to more than 40 commissions, boards, committees and task forces. These citizen-led groups advise them on topics ranging from land use and development to housing. Through this system, civic-minded citizens can be involved in County Government and the local government can benefit from the knowledge, experience and expertise of the citizens. Vacancies are announced through media releases and more information can be found on the County's website at [www.stmarysmd.com](http://www.stmarysmd.com).

com. Click on Volunteer Boards under the Government box.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Significant rehabilitation for the Patuxent Park neighborhood began in Summer 2008. These improvements included widening of roadways, curbing and rehabbing of water/sewer infrastructure.

The County worked closely with State Highway Department to improve Chancellors' Run Road. This project, begun in May 2008, will widen this road and add several traffic lights.

St. Mary's County Government works closely with our community's hospital to en-

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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*Commissioner Tom Mattingly, left, Michael L. Middleton, President and CEO of Community Bank of Tri-County, and Wayne Davis, president, W. M. Davis, Inc., discuss the impact of the bank's new 3-story building in Leonardtown on Rte. 5. This newly built regional banking facility will house the branch location, the bank's training center, the IT center of operations, lending offices and various other functions.*

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*The Gateways community opened this year to provide additional housing opportunities for the county's residents. Located behind Great Mills High School on Lexwood Drive, this 4-story residential building was sponsored by The Housing Authority. It consists of 42 quality, energy efficient homes comprised of one, two and three bedrooms ranging from 774 to 1,190 square feet.*

neighborhoods for military residents, Columbia Colony, located behind the Target store in California and Challenger Estates, sited within the Wildewood Residential Subdivision.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

The newly established St. Mary's County Department of Human Services began operations July 1, 2008. This new department represents a consolidation of existing County functions - Community Services and Marcey House - along with the integration of the programs and funding that had previously been handled by an array of public and private entities. This department creates a system that integrates all forms of such assistance for individuals and their families. Citizens now have access to a system of care, including a broad array

of services. This unified system will address the health, mental health, housing, training, employment, and transportation needs across all segments of the population: children and adults, individuals with disabilities, senior citizens, and their families.

The Human Services Department is comprised of the Office of the Director, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Services, Marcey Halfway House, and Local Management Board. The Human Services Department staff will be located in the Potomac Building on the Governmental Center Campus in Leonardtown. A new Human Services Council, comprised of 19 citizens also began meeting this year.

2009 MARKS THE  
*375th Anniversary*  
OF MARYLAND'S FOUNDING  
HERE AT  
MARYLAND'S BIRTHPLACE  
IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY. JOIN  
US AS WE CELEBRATE.



ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
HAS BEEN WELCOMING  
TRAVELERS SINCE 1634  
WHEN 140 HARDY  
ADVENTURERS FIRST STEPPED  
ONTO OUR BOUNTIFUL  
CHESAPEAKE SHORE.  
MARYLAND BEGAN HERE!

TO RECOGNIZE THAT  
BEGINNING, THE 2009  
DISCOVER  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
DESTINATION AND RELOCA-  
TION GUIDE WILL CARRY THE  
THEME OF THE  
375TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
MARYLAND'S FOUNDING.  
THE MAGAZINE-STYLE GUIDE  
WILL BE DISTRIBUTED  
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

sure health care is accessible, affordable and up-to-date. St. Mary's Hospital is constantly upgrading to meet our community's needs. The Emergency Department has added 9,000 s.f. to provide faster care and increased comfort. The latest in MRI and 64-slice CT equipment have arrived in the Imaging Suite, providing easier access and faster turnaround times for patients. Patients will soon have access to digital mammography, bringing the most advanced technology in the early detection of a disease that strikes one in eight women. Fifteen more telemetry-monitored patient beds and two new operating rooms will also be added soon. Planning is currently underway for a major expansion to accommodate population growth and the increasing demand for high quality healthcare services.

## LEONARTOWN

Leonardtown Wharf Waterfront Park. This new park provides green space along the waterfront, piers, restroom facilities, and launch areas for canoes and kayaks. Opened in May, the Leonardtown Wharf project includes benches, interpretive displays, a boardwalk, piers, and tie-ups. The final phase of the wharf project will add up to 25 boat slips.

A major Streetscaping project

in downtown Leonardtown began in May 2008. The revitalization of Leonardtown launched about two decades ago has focused in part on making the downtown area a pleasant and safe place to walk and shop. Most of the sidewalks from the Route 5 and Route 245 intersection down through the square and out to St. Mary's Ryken High School will be about five-feet wide with trees and lamp-posts. Wide bike paths will also be added.

A newly renovated and expanded Leonardtown Elementary School opened in August 2008 with 195 additional seats.

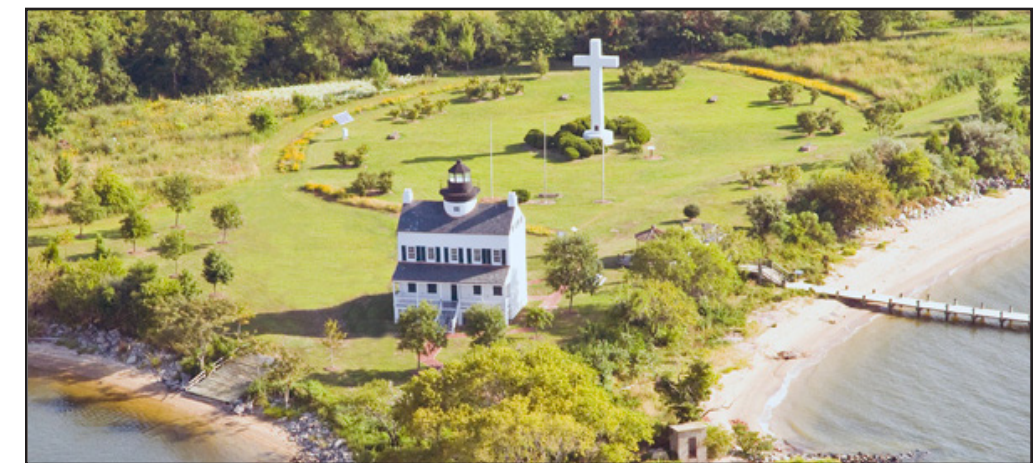
## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

For FY2009, the property tax remained at \$.857 per \$100 of assessed value. Your

Board of Commissioners adopted a \$202 million general fund budget for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. This budget reflects a continued commitment to education, public safety, transportation, recreation and many other services that provide for safe and healthy communities.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

A new section of the Three Notch Trail was officially opened this year in Charlotte Hall. This hiking/biking/equestrian trail within the county-owned Railroad Right-of-Way opened its first phase in June 2006. The next phase of the Trail will begin soon and will include the section from Wal-Mart Shopping Center to MD 237 (Chancellor's Run Road) in California. The trail will attract walkers,



*This aerial photo of St. Clement's Island, provided by Carol Davis, showcases the newly built replica of the Blackistone Lighthouse. A shining example of community partnerships and volunteerism, the project was built by individual and business volunteers and funded by a combination of public and private dollars. The original lighthouse, built in 1851 by John Donahoo, was torn down for safety reasons in 1956 after a fire. The new facility was included in the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge this year and is attracting residents and tourists.*



*This view of the new Wicomico Clubhouse, located at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course, only tells half the story. The view from inside the clubhouse captures the Wicomico River and the golf course. The clubhouse is now open and features The Riverview Restaurant, an elegant restaurant and banquet facility. The new Clubhouse features over 14,000 s.f. of space, including an expanded golf pro shop, indoor space for carts, office spaces, and an elegant restaurant and bar and grill services.*

runners, bikers and rollerbladers. This project is continuing to attract significant state and federal grants.

The next phase of the Trail includes the three-mile section of the trail from John V. Baggett Park in Laurel Grove to MD 5 in Mechanicsville. Baggett Park will serve as a trail hub in this area, where ample parking and restroom facilities are available. Ultimately, when the entire trail is completed, it will link the established, more urban areas of Lexington Park and California to more scenic, rural areas such as Hillville, Oakville, Laurel Grove, Mechanicsville and Charlotte Hall. In addition to recreational and fitness uses, the trail is expected to serve transportation needs for those wishing to bike to attractions, shopping, Senior Centers, libraries, farmers'

markets, businesses and workplaces.

A new clubhouse, featuring The Riverview restaurant, opened in September at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course in Chaptico. The clubhouse is a complete renovation and expansion of the former facility, but the new Clubhouse features over 14,000 s.f. of space, including an expanded golf pro shop, indoor space for carts, office spaces, and an elegant restaurant and bar and grill services.

The Riverview's banquet facility is designed to accommodate every requirement for business meetings, events, weddings and receptions and can accommodate seating capacity for 175 people and overlooks the scenic Wicomico River and the golf course. The restaurant is open daily.

A fully stocked bar includes a generous selection of Maryland wines and wines from some of the world's best grape growing regions. The food menu encompasses a wide variety of Southern Maryland favorites. The new facility also offers state-of-the-art audio visual equipment for corporate meetings.

A new Wellness Center will open in January 2010 at the College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus. The building will be home to two swimming pools, and a variety of classroom spaces for aerobics, yoga, and other fitness activities.

A joint collaboration among the State of Maryland, the College, and St. Mary's County Government, construction of the 32,000 s.f. facility will begin in 2008. This new facility will expand fitness and wellness opportunities for members of our community. Providing opportunities for students and community members to participate in fitness programs helps improve upon their quality of life.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE**

**O**ur strong economy has led to the creation and expansion of many new businesses. One example is the Community Bank of Tri-County. This bank opened a new branch in September in Leonardtown.

This expansion has added additional jobs to the County's workforce and continued the bank's commitment as a strong community partner.

The 2008 edition of the St. Mary's County Technology Handbook was published in hard copy and posted to the website. This issue contained a complete listing of the County's technology companies and included a growing list of Wi-Fi sites in the county.

The County Commissioners for St. Mary's County approved an annual growth policy in August. This new policy is designed to continue a high quality of life for residents. A growth policy will ensure that the right amount of public infrastructure is in place to serve new developments.

Infrastructure needs include schools, roads, water and sewerage, recreational facilities and public buildings. The average annual growth rate over the past fifteen years has been 2.55 percent. The new resolution established an annual residential growth rate of 1.90 percent.

The prevention of encroachment around the Naval Air Station remains a key priority for the County Commissioners. Per the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in April 2007 to formally confirm the partnership required to prevent future



*This artist's rendering of the new Wellness Center on the College of Southern Maryland Leonardtown Campus in Leonardtown depicts a state-of-the-art facility needed for our community and our community college. Planned to open in January 2010, the building will be home to two swimming pools, a variety of classroom spaces for aerobics, yoga and other fitness activities.*

encroachment, the Commissioners and the Navy leadership have been meeting twice a year to discuss relevant issues. This MOU was cited as a criteria for the 2008 Commander-in-Chief Installation Excellence Award received by NAS Patuxent River.

A major step to preserving county lands around the military installation from development occurred earlier this year when The Facchina Group of Companies placed a 179 acre tract of land, located south of the base, in the Maryland Environmental Trust program.

Preserving our rural lands is a priority. A task force report to the Commissioners summarized the chief land preservation efforts. They are: MALPF, Rural Legacy, Transferable Development Rights, Maryland Environmental Trust and the Maryland

Historical Trust. The commissioners asked the members of the Task Force to continue meeting to discuss the Scenic Corridor Buffer, buffering of subdivisions, uses allowed with the RPD, floating zones, subdivision size in the RPD and potential creation of farmland trusts.

A diverse and plentiful stock of housing for our residents is a key ingredient in a successful community. Several new housing initiatives have recently opened including The Gateways, a 42-unit rental/ownership building in Lexington Park; Hunting Creek, a combination rental/self-help home community on Willows Road and Habitat for Humanity's five-lot Fenwick Ridge Subdivision. Both Abberly Crest and Wildewood Apartments opened up new phases in these market-based apartment communities. Lincoln Military Housing opened two new