

GREETINGS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS...

Thank you for reading the 2007 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, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-4200, x1300, bocc@co.saint-marys.md.us

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.co.saint-marys.md.us/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 at <http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/voluntr/VolForm.PDF> or visit the Public Information Office, Governmental Center, 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

2007

State of the County Report

MORE THAN 2,500 PAGES OF INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS...
www.stmarysmd.com

THE MASTS POINT THE WAY FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND. THE SAILORS ON THE ORIGINAL SAILING SHIP, THE DOVE, EMBARKED ON THEIR VOYAGE FILLED WITH HOPE AND EXPECTATIONS. THE RECREATED DOVE, SEEN ON COVER, AND AT HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY, REMINDS OUR COMMUNITY THAT OUR HISTORY IS TO BE CHERISHED AND OUR FUTURE IS TO BE EMBRACED.

Of Note.....

These pages illustrate only a few items of interest undertaken this year by your local government. For more information on county government's services, log on to www.stmarysmd.com. Your elected commissioners are committed to providing needed services and program in an efficient manner. Their commitment to this principle resulted in an upgrade to the county's bond market rating in December. Standard and Poor's raised its rating on St. Mary's County bonds.

PARTNERSHIPS

A WoW! Program was begun by the the St. Mary's County Public Libraries. Words on Wheels (WoW) provides library services to child care providers. The van started rolling in March 2007. The Artwork was designed by a local business (Hilltop Graphics).



Ten acres of farmland purchased by the County in the Mattapan Block is dedicated to the Patuxent Habitat for Humanity for five homes sites. The Patuxent Habitat for Humanity is committed to



A solid waste Transfer Station and Processing Facility has been funded and is planned for construction at St. Andrews Landfill property. This new 12,000 square foot facility will be permitted to handle an estimated 500 tons of refuse per day and is an integral part of our short term strategies outlined in the State approved Comprehensive Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan. The design-build project will be County licensed and operated and will allow the business and commercial sectors, licensed in St. Mary's County, to once again dispose of their solid waste locally.

bring people from all walks of life together in helping their neighbors by providing decent, affordable housing.

The members of the Housing Authority's Board have set their goal as "Providing housing opportunities, community development and

neighborhood improvements to all citizens of need." A

few key accomplishments include the completion of Gateways, a 4-story residential homeownership condominium community with 42 homes comprised of one, two

and three bedrooms, rental assistance provided to over 1400 families, and revitalization of key neighborhoods.

The 3.2 mile Hughesville Bypass opened this summer. While located in Charles County, this transportation project was a regional priority and relieves congestion for residents throughout

Southern Maryland. The \$56 million project will ease congestion and improve safety for motorists. The four-lane highway breaks a long-time traffic bottleneck that exists on MD 5 in the heart of Hughesville. The project resulted from the strong partnership between the federal government and the State, county and municipal leaders.

Safety and congestion issues on county roadways are continually monitored. Construction on the widening of Chancellors Run Road is expected to begin in 2008



Richard Sandidge stands behind his former home in Lexington Manor. His is one of the two homes being preserved to mark the rich legacy of this important subdivision built in the 1940's as Naval Air Station Patuxent River was created. The neighborhood was built near the Naval Air Station and had become dilapidated. The homes were demolished last year via a local, state and federal cooperation project. An oral history of the former tenants is being completed by the staff of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Photo by David Emerick.



The ground was flying in August 2007 as the county commissioners joined the staff of Smartronix at its groundbreaking ceremony. Smartronix is building an office campus in the Industrial Park to keep pace with its growth as a global solutions provider. Photo courtesy of Smartronix.

and be completed by 2010. Public informational meetings are underway to discuss the extension of Pegg Road, a critical inter-county connector, the widening of State Highway Rte. 5 and the widening of State Highway Rte. 4. New traffic lights have been added on Rte. 4 at FDR Blvd and at the intersection of Rte. 5 and Rte. 4.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

New Mobile Data Terminals were installed in all Sheriff's cars this year. These high tech systems are becoming standard equipment on law enforcement vehicles and are already helping our law enforcement officers respond to crimes. The Sheriff's Office also received a new Mobile Command Center.

The staff at the County's Emergency Operations Center worked around the clock to meet citizens' needs for emergency response. They managed over 250,000 calls last year and directed fire, EMS, and Sheriff's resources to citizens in need.

COMMUNITY

The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse is being renovated and expanded. The facility will have expanded square foot-

age under roof on the ground level and the golf shop and food and beverage operations will be relocated upstairs near the existing banquet room. The lower level of the building will be renovated to accommodate golf carts and

storage.

Progress is underway on the 28-mile County hiking/biking trail known as the Three Notch Trail. When completed, it will run from Hughesville in Charles County to Lexington Park. The trail is a non motorized pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian trail. The first phase of the Three Notch Trail opened in June 2006 from New Market to the Northern Senior Center in Char-



St. Mary's County Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell and Pax River Commanding Officer Capt. Glen Ives sign the cooperation agreement to limit encroachment on the station. Behind them are (l-r) Del. John Wood; Del. Anthony O'Donnell; St. Mary's County Commissioners Larry Jarboe, Dan Raley; Calvert County Commissioner Wilson Parran; St. Mary's County Commissioners Kenny Dement and Tom Mattingly; NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. David Venlet; NAVAIR Vice Commander Rear Adm. Steven Enewold; U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer; NAWCAD Commander Rear Adm. Steven Eastburg; U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin; Del. John Bohanon, and Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown. Official USN Photo by Rick Thompson

Striking a balance between our county's rural charm and its technological edge is a constant challenge. A historic agreement between the Board of County Commissioners and the U.S. Navy was signed in April to officially mark their ongoing partnership. The county commissioners are committed to preventing encroachment upon the operation at the Naval Air Station. This commitment, combined with a dedication to our community's rural character, has led to several key land use decisions this year. Notably, the Transferable Development Rights (TDR's) program was simplified and revised in July to promote its use as a land preservation tool.

The Department of Aging provides services and programs for the Seniors of St. Mary's County. Services include Information & Assistance, Medical Adult Day Services Program, Senior Center Plus, Caregiver Support,

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and Meals On Wheels. Activities and programs at the Senior Centers include physical fitness, social and educational programs, healthy lifestyle presentations, financial and legal seminars, and social-oriented lunches. During FY 2007, the Meals On Wheels program served 358 seniors with 54,754 meals and the Department of Aging had contact with 4,596 people for a total of 165,771 units of service. The New Beginning newsletter and the Department's website, www.co.saint-marys.md.us/doa, are good avenues for information. St. Mary's County is committed to meeting the challenge of preserving independence, providing choice, and maintaining dignity for all older citizens.

lotte Hall. An additional two miles of trail from the Senior Center to Deborah Drive, just north of the St. Mary's County line, will be completed shortly.