

# CALVERT LIBRARY

## *History from 1999-2009*

*Celebrating 50 Years*

*Your Destination for Imagination,  
Information and Inspiration*



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# *Introduction*

*B*uilding on its forty year history of customer service, the staff of Calvert Library continues to make every effort to reach out and welcome every citizen. In the years 1999-2009 the library kept pace with technology and added many more interesting programs while continuing to provide the traditional services expected.

*Calvert Library, more than you can imagine.*

## MISSION

*Calvert Library is your destination for  
imagination, information and inspiration.*

## VISION

### *The Calvert Library*

Provides people of all ages with lifelong learning opportunities and the resources they need for personal growth and development

- Promotes Reading
- Provides timely, accurate responses to questions
- Encourages students and teachers to use library resources
- Serves as a community gathering place

Let's look back at the last ten years of Calvert Library. It has been a wonderful decade.



# Statistics

	FY 1999	FY 2008
Circulation	544,807	1,035,223
Customers	360,561	554,392
Reference Questions	34,199	79,779
Computer Usage	24,335	89,162
Library Cards	44,276	55,347
Staff FTE	36	50.8
Budget	\$1,627,996	\$3,168,311
Population	69,200	87,925
Program Attendance	27,888	55,478





# *Board of Trustees*

## **CALVERT LIBRARY BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES FOR 2008**

President – M. Kiplinger Hine

Vice President – Laura Holbrook

### ***Members***

Rene Cunningham

Karen Eggert

Celeste Fort

Nick Garrett

Martha Grahame

### ***Others who have also served on the board of trustees between 1999 and 2009 are:***

Russell Costley, Nikki Frazer, Matt Hickman,  
Pete Hively, James (JR) Mathers, Amy Plummer,  
Donnie Radcliffe, Judge Thomas A. Rymer



# *Calvert Library Foundation, Inc.*

*T*he Library Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization created to receive larger donations to benefit the library. The Foundation accepts gifts of cash, property or stock.



As library buildings are updated, Foundation funds provide extra touches that create welcoming and pleasant facilities. Funds in the Foundation account may be used for library services or buildings and will help to add features of technology and comfort that go beyond the reach of taxpayer dollars. Recently, the Foundation provided funding for the library to begin a collection of gaming system games and computer games. Children are so excited to try out a game for the Play Station 3 before they buy it.

During the year the Foundation sponsors the “Authors by the Bay” series of author lectures and book signings. The Foundation has sponsored lectures by noted news service reporter and member of the White House Press Corps, Helen Thomas, National Public Radio talk show host, Diane Rehm, and Marlin Fitzwater, the White House Press Secretary under presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

## ***Board of Directors 2008***

Amy Plummer, President

Kip AtLee, Vice President

Patti AtLee, Secretary

Margaret Fahs, Treasurer

Fran Armstrong

Grace Mary Brady

Margaret Clark

Russell Costley

Martha Grahame

Krista Hoffpauir

The Library Foundation solicited donations for the new library in Prince Frederick. Many generous members of the community purchased commemorative bricks or acorns, leaves or rocks for the Giving Tree while other contributions were for rooms or sections of the library.

<b>TUTORING ROOM 1</b>	<b>Elaine Dunkle in Memory of H. Dean Cochran</b>
<b>TUTORING ROOM 2</b>	<b>Bob Davis and Associates Homes of Distinction, Inc.</b>
<b>BRIDGE</b>	<b>Rymer &amp; Associates, P. A., Certified Public Accountants</b>
<b>FRIENDS' GIFT SHOP</b>	<b>Friends of the Library</b>
<b>GROUP STUDY ROOM</b>	<b>Elsie Carper</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S I CAN READ CENTER</b>	<b>Family and Friends in Memory of Cheryl Adams</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S HOMEWORK CENTER</b>	<b>Robert &amp; Frances Poling in Memory of Hannah and Maurice Dunkle</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S TOTALLY TODDLERS</b>	<b>Henry &amp; Ann Trentman</b>
<b>TEEN ZONE</b>	<b>Community Bank of Tri County</b>
<b>QUIET STUDY ROOM</b>	<b>Pete &amp; Barbara Hively</b>
<b>COMPUTER CENTER</b>	<b>Kip Hine in Memory of Rosalie Hine</b>
<b>LIVING ROOM WITH FIREPLACE</b>	<b>Donnie Radcliffe in Memory of Robert Radcliffe</b>
<b>REFERENCE AREA</b>	<b>Elsie Carper</b>
<b>CIRCULATION AREA</b>	<b>PNC Bank</b>
<b>MEETING ROOM 1</b>	<b>Martha Grahame</b>
<b>MEETING ROOM 2</b>	<b>Marrick Properties</b>
<b>MEETING ROOM 3</b>	<b>Dominion Cove Point LNG</b>
<b>STAIRCASE</b>	<b>Arts Council of Calvert County, Inc.</b>

## *Friends of the Calvert Library*

Our library is fortunate to have the organization, The Friends of Calvert Library, as a support organization. The Friends active board of directors brings energy and enthusiasm to fundraising, advocacy and promotion of the library. They are a loyal, talented group who has a lot of fun as they accomplish a great amount of work. Ed Dorsey, Secretary, explains, "Think of the Friends as the cream in the coffee."



Raising funds through their gift shop, annual book sales, membership drives and raffles, they are able to provide financial support to the library by purchasing items that are not in the regular budget. "Books and Bubbly," an annual January event, is an opportunity to dress up, celebrate the library and raise

money. Some of the items that the Friends have purchased include promotional items for school visits, supplies for the annual children's "Make a Gingerbread House" program, CD players for storytime, a TV and microwave for the staff lounge, a color laser printer and a personal computer scanner. Every year they donate funds to each branch and the outreach van for holiday decorations. Each branch also has a tool kit for quick and easy repairs and a digital camera to capture memorable moments or displays. Tween programs and volunteer appreciation events and gifts are also funded by this wonderful group.

The Friends also serve as an advocate for library programs and promote the library within the community. The group encourages the use of library services.

The Friends hold an annual meeting which always includes a speaker. Past Maryland authors have included Barbara Lee, author of the Chesapeake Bay mystery series, Lucia St. Clair Robson, a writer of historical fiction and Dr. P. M. Forni, author of *Choosing Civility*. Local artists Gary Pendleton and Parran Coltery have also addressed the group.

In addition, many of our friends also volunteer at their local branch. They can be spotted organizing shelves, assisting with delivery, sorting donated materials, preparing crafts, stuffing the "Books for

Babies” bags given to each child born at Calvert Memorial Hospital or anywhere in the branch that an extra pair of hands is needed. The 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Martha Grahame, Friends of Calvert Library President, by the Maryland Library Association at their annual conference.

The Friends organization supports the Calvert County Public Schools by providing funds for Read across America, sponsors a team for Calvert County Literacy Council’s annual Spelling Bee and cooperates with the Citizens for Maryland Libraries and the Maryland Library Association.

Membership in the Friends is open to all individuals interested in helping the library. The Board of Directors and library staff greatly appreciate everything that our citizens do to enhance the Calvert Library.

## **THE CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### ***Officers***

Martha W. Grahame, President

Kathleen Branch, Vice President

Edward V. Dorsey, Jr. Secretary

Tamea Bowen, Treasurer

### ***Directors***

Laura Allison

Patti AtLee

Cathy Grahame

Kathleen Hammond

Sheila Hejl

JoAnn Larkin

Mark Taeschner

### ***Library Advisor***

Pat Hofmann



## *The New Library in Prince Frederick*

Creating the new library in Prince Frederick was a collaborative community effort.

A consultant, Melanie Hennigan of Grimm & Parker, was hired to study the Duke Street location and determine if it was best to renovate

and add on to the existing library or build a new building on the same site. Public meetings were held. The public, the Board of Library Trustees, and the staff participated in focus groups. Customers were asked what they would like to see in the new building. At the Chamber of Commerce Home and Building Expo, children were asked to draw a picture of their dream library.



It was ultimately determined that a new location was needed for

the new building and the Board of County Commissioners approved this decision. Library customers wanted a modern, state-of-the-art library and both county and state dollars would be used to create this new facility.

A few locations were visited but were found to be either too small or too far away from Route 4. Pat Hofmann then talked with Rick Bailey and George Stewart of Marrick Properties who were developing Market Square, a lifestyle center with a village feel to it. Pat told them about the public library, the volume of customers served, programs presented and the services provided. All decided that a partnership would be a great idea. The library would be an anchor for the shopping center.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new library was held on November 16, 2004. Russell Costley, the outgoing President of the Board of Library Trustees said, "I know I have some idea how Moses felt to wander around the desert for 40 years." Mr. Costley compared

it to the decade that he and fellow board members wandered around Prince Frederick in search of a site for a larger, more modern library. “For my entire 10 year term, we have been involved in planning for a



new library in Prince Frederick. We finally have stopped wandering and have a wonderful site.” Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, who worked to secure a state bond for the project called Calvert “enlightened” and “progressive” for its commitment to provide a new home for the library. Maryland’s state librarian, Irene Padilla, said the library would be a nice size for the community and that bigger libraries were very much the trend.

Melanie Hennigan of Grimm & Parker was chosen as the architect. She had experience designing other libraries in Maryland and Virginia. All of the ideas put forth by the focus groups, staff, trustees and community were distilled and brought to the architect and the design process began. Melanie was able to bring the community itself into the building. She created a building that is beautiful, functional and technologically advanced.

Once the library had a design, floor plan and pictures to show the public, the Calvert Library Foundation began soliciting sponsors for the rooms and sold commemorative bricks and a Giving Tree. Each leaf, acorn or rock on the Giving Tree represents a donation. The Foundation raised almost \$300,000 for special touches in the building; examples are the textured, multi-colored *Zolatone* finish on the walls at the circular stairs, the blue quartz tile floor, and the comfortable seating.

A team comprised of staff members met regularly to keep ideas flowing, make decisions, and keep communication open and all members on task. Once the building was under roof, Pat brought staff to tour the building. Some wore hard hats for the first time! Everyone’s initial reaction was awe and they all commented that the building was so large.

Melanie Hennigan also designed the interior of the building. She brought samples of carpeting, flooring and fabrics in many colors and



textures for the team to review. She chose paint colors to make people feel calm and inspired. The library was able to purchase all new furniture within its price range because she found vendors to suit the library's needs. With the wonderful assistance of the Calvert County Purchasing

Department, Jim Green of Young and Watson coordinated the purchase, delivery and set up of all the furniture.

The library was built under the supervision of the Calvert County Director of Public Works, Bob Taylor, and after his retirement, Terry Carlson. Department of Public Works staff member Lynn Thomas was in charge of the building project. Sam Buckmaster of Public Works was the building inspector. They met regularly with the library building committee, the builder, Dave Jackson of Zadmer Enterprises and the construction architect, Rick Morrison, to review all stages of construction and progress.

The Calvert Library Prince Frederick is meant to be inspiring, to be a showcase and to honor Calvert County. It is a place that fosters a love of learning and reading. It is a place where the community can gather. When a visitor to the county enters the facility, he or she gets the feel of the county. This building could only be in Calvert County as it is a reflection of Calvert's culture and heritage. The blue quartz floor in the café symbolizes the water of the Chesapeake Bay and the walls and stairs to the second floor represent Calvert Cliffs. The fireplace in the living room is a unique work of art created by Melanie Hennigan, incorporating fossils donated by the Calvert Marine Museum. When you go upstairs via the circular staircase you can't help but notice the beauty of the tower and the view.

The children's department of the library has many touches that incorporate the Calvert County theme. The library was lucky to find artist, David Kelsey from St. Mary's County who designed the unique tables using wood and resin, and local fossils and sharks' teeth. The shelving end panels have blue heron, crab and seahorse cutouts. Staff member Leslie Bonner created additional fish, turtle and bird cutouts for the chairs so that all would reflect creatures native to Calvert County.

The fiber optic lights over the stacks resemble jelly fish and change color throughout the day. The lighthouse door opens into a family restroom. The library is so proud of the children's area. It has a homework center with computers, reference books, a copy machine, study tables, and librarians to help kids find information. There is a



parenting collection in this department with books on topics of interest to parents. Beginning readers have a place of their own in the "I Can Read" section. There are lots of books for new readers and comfy bean bag chairs where they can sit and read. The Toddler

area has a boat where children can read or play, an activity cube that promotes brain development in young children, and the smallest chairs in the library. Parents observe children participating in programs through the portholes of the storytime house.

The teen area features a study table with high stools, beanbag chairs and a computer area encompassed by sails. Teens can find their magazines, books, comics, graphic novels and audiobooks in one location. One teen said that going to the new Calvert Library was better than going to the mall.

On opening day there were 27 computers for public use, quite an increase from the ten computers at the Duke Street location. Computer use is free and customers can search databases and use Microsoft Office products such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They can search the Internet or check their email. This area also has a microfilm reader and magnifier for customers doing research. Best of all every seat is comfortable. Additional computers to access Cosmos, the library's catalog, are conveniently located at the ends of shelves.

Library planners listened to what the public asked for in a new building. There are three meeting rooms that open into one large room with a seating capacity for about 120 people. The building has tutoring rooms and a group study room which customers can reserve online from the library web page. Libraries today are very active so a room was

created especially for quiet study. The Friends of the Library now have a room for their gift shop and used book sale items. There is a copy center and mini Calvert County Tourism Center.

There are three display cases for use by the library, museums and government agencies to highlight aspects of Calvert County. Recent displays included artifacts from the Fox Run area, election and inauguration memorabilia and the history of Calvert Library. Customers can purchase snacks, coffee or cold drinks at the vending machines then sit in the café to enjoy them. On nice days people can sit outside on the



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a positive buzz and energy from so many people.  
Learning and literacy are constant.”***

**— Pat Hofmann**

terrace. “Callie” (named after Calvert County), a statue purchased by the Friends of the Library, stands on the terrace as well. The community’s vision resulted in “a place for everyone and a tribute to Calvert County”. Pat Hofmann said, “When you enter Calvert Library you feel a positive buzz and energy from so many people. Learning and literacy are constant.”

Calvert Library’s address is 850 Costley Way. The street was named to honor Russell Costley, retired educator, who served as a library trustee for twenty years. He served from 1973-1982 and then 1994-2004. His perseverance in seeking County government approval was instrumental in the completion of the new library.

Office Movers, a professional moving company with a library division, packed and moved the materials from Duke Street to Costley Way. The moving staff was extremely organized and therefore inspired confidence. They moved about 50,000 books and 5,000 audio-visual items on big carts. When the carts arrived at the new library, the movers knew exactly where to place them on the shelves. Their advance planning worked perfectly!

The library was only closed for three weeks for the move. Staff worked diligently to make everything perfect for opening day and even recruited



spouses and children to assist. During this time staff had to learn a new phone system, a new security system, set up the work flow, learn to use new copiers and printers as well as learn self checkout. Branch Manager, Marcia Hammett, expressed great pride in the staff for stepping up, helping each other and making the new library a home.



Maria Jolley, Computer Services Technician for Calvert Library, was responsible for relocating and organizing the Information Technology department. She was also responsible for purchasing and installing all the necessary equipment and new computers. Each phase

of the move was staged so that everything would run smoothly. Staff from SMRLA (Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Inc.) helped Maria set up the servers to image the computers as they were moved to a new domain. Sailor staff moved the Sailor equipment. They also helped Maria install the new network equipment while keeping the old network equipment in place so that the branches could continue to operate efficiently and without interruption. Joey Rawlings, the part-time Computer Services Technician, added weekend and evening hours to his schedule doing extra required tasks. Staff and family members assisted Maria by unpacking the new computers, monitors and keyboards and then putting them in the assigned location. Other staff assisted in wire management to keep the computer areas attractive and safe. Maria worked 70 hours a week for three weeks to ensure that opening day would meet all the expectations of the staff and community. In addition to the IT office servers, routers and other equipment, 57 computers were networked, put in place and ready to go on opening day. This was a remarkable achievement!

The dedication on October 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. attracted approximately 350 happy and enthusiastic people. David Hale, Wilson Parran, Jerry Clark, Susan Shaw and Linda Kelley, the five County Commissioners, each addressed the crowd and used such words as “flagship” and “vital” to describe the library. Maryland State Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, a staunch library supporter, spoke as well. Director of Calvert Library Pat Hofmann received sustained applause from her staff and the community for her gracious speech about the beautiful new library. Other speakers included Irene M. Padilla, the Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries for the Maryland State Department of Education, Russell Costley and Kip Hine, the



president of the Board of Library Trustees in 2006. No one in attendance will forget Mr. Hine spontaneously lifting four year old Darcel Carroll high in his arms and stating that she was the reason we build libraries and that children will be the biggest beneficiaries of the new library.

The building is 28,000 square feet which is twice the size of the Duke Street location. It is about 182 feet long and 70 feet across, plus the meeting rooms. It took one year to design the building and two years for construction. The contractor was Zadmer Enterprises.

### ***Cost***

<b>Design</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Land &amp; site work</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$6,400,000</b>
<b>Equipment &amp; furniture</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>
<b>Total cost:</b>	<b>\$7,950,000</b>

Every employee knew that Calvert Library Prince Frederick would be busy. No one dreamed just how busy it would be and that library use would exceed all expectations. Thousands of people have visited the library for the first time to get a library card. Thousands more check out materials, use the computers, or attend special events weekly. One youngster told his mom that all he wanted on his birthday was to go to McDonald's and then go to the new library. In the early weeks, the customer count averaged over 1000 people per day and almost all computers were in constant use. With 27 computers available to the public, librarians believed that there could never possibly be a person waiting to use a computer again. But on Election Day, November 7, 2006, just one week after opening, every computer was in use and customers were waiting. Due to high demand, more computers have been added to our inventory.

Fortunately, there is room in the building for growth. This magnificent library will meet the needs of the citizens for many years. All who were part of the process take great pride in this community project. Everyone who works at Calvert Library Prince Frederick appreciates the light, the colors, the details and the beauty of this building.

## ***Building Design Team***

Melanie Hennigan, Architect, Grimm & Parker  
Lynn Thomas, Calvert County Dept of Public Works  
Sherrod Sturrock, Calvert County Capital Projects Coordinator  
Russell Costley, Trustee  
M. Kiplinger Hine, Citizen  
Kathie Eichfeld, Library  
Carolyn Graessle, Library  
Marcia Hammett, Library  
Pat Hofmann, Library  
Beverly Izzi, Library  
Maria Jolley, Library  
Carolyn Lenz, Library  
Robyn Truslow, Library

## ***Building Team***

Rick Morrison, Architect, Grimm & Parker  
Sam Buckmaster, Calvert County Dept of Public Works  
Joyce Nalley, Calvert County Dept of Public Works  
Lynn Thomas, Calvert County Dept of Public Works  
Dave Jackson, Zadmer Enterprises  
Carolyn Graessle, Library  
Marcia Hammett, Library  
Pat Hofmann, Library  
Beverly Izzi, Library  
Maria Jolley, Library  
Robyn Truslow, Library

## ***Move Team***

Colleen Cano  
Kathie Eichfeld  
Carolyn Graessle  
Marcia Hammett  
Sheila Hejl  
Pat Hofmann  
Beverly Izzi  
Maria Jolley  
Carolyn Lenz  
Pam Perrygo  
Robyn Truslow

***All library staff participated in the actual move.***



# *The Branches*

Each Calvert Library branch provides the same services as the main library but on a smaller scale. Each branch has well-trained librarians providing reference service, recommending books for pleasure and presenting programs. Customers visiting any branch will discover new materials in a variety of formats on the shelves, themed displays of interest, computers for public use and, of course, a friendly and welcoming staff. One improvement to customer service during this decade was the expansion of hours of operation. All Calvert Libraries are open 61 hours per week.

The Twin Beaches Branch in Chesapeake Beach is unique in many ways. It is the only library in the state of Maryland with a view of the Chesapeake Bay. Windows on every side of the building make the library a light, bright and cozy place to visit.



Customers enjoy the small town flavor of the branch and appreciate the congenial, knowledgeable staff. The library has been fortunate to have a partnership with the Town of Chesapeake Beach. The town has paid 25% of the library building lease since 1991. Mayor Gerald Donovan and the town council for many years generously gave the library a grant of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to purchase anything that might be needed by the library to better serve their customers.

The Twin Beaches Branch celebrated its 20th anniversary in October of 2001. The theme for the festivities was "Your Favorite Things". Customers were invited to visit the library, share refreshments, look at photographs and sign a memory book of their favorite things about the Twin Beaches Branch.

Although it may sound a bit chaotic to have storytime in an unenclosed room, every Wednesday children from birth to age five attend programs in the children's area of the Twin Beaches Branch. Joanie Kilmon, Branch Manager, says that she loves it because everyone who enters the building can see how great the programs are. Staff can be heard singing along or seen tapping their feet to the songs. The "Bye-Bye"

song is a favorite for everyone. Children, tweens and teens also have their book discussions in the branch and again customers take the activity all in stride and are pleased to see children and families participating in library activities and enjoying reading together.

Not having a meeting room, Twin Beaches children's librarians have taken summer storytime programs off site. To the delight of many, children's librarians created themed programs, such as a "4th of July" program presented at the Town Hall, a train program offered at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, a fossil program at the Bayside History Museum in North Beach and "Angelina Ballerina" presented at the Abigail Francisco School of Classical Ballet. The North Beach boardwalk has also been a popular location for programming. Staff has used resources within the town for summer fun programs. The North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Northeast Community Center, Beach Elementary School and the Rod 'n' Reel Restaurant have all welcomed the library to use their facilities for programs. You may even see library staff in the North Beach Christmas Parade.

Monthly book discussions for adults have been held off site at restaurants and the communal space at the Town Center Apartments. After reading *The Great Gatsby*, book discussion participants dressed in roaring twenties costumes as though attending a party at the Gatsby mansion.

To promote reading and awareness of the library, staff at the Twin Beaches Branch Library has taken many of the donated books and magazines to the Chesapeake Beach Water Park for their customers' use.

The Fairview Branch is located on Route 4 in Owings and is housed in the same building as the Tourist Information Center and a small satellite office of the sheriff. There are two trees located on the Fairview property that have been there longer than the 28 year old library itself. In the back courtyard stands a majestic Siberian Elm. This tree has lost many limbs and branches during wind, rain and snow storms but everyone agreed when enlarging the facility to save it, nurture it and care for it so that it would thrive and provide shade for many more years. In the front north side of the building is a weeping cherry tree that stands as a memorial to a student who attended Fairview School. Arguably the most beautiful tree in Calvert County, the pink blossoms are glorious in spring and many brides have been photographed there.

Whichever door to the library that you enter, the first thing you see is color. Banners, signage, bulletin boards, displays and materials are all bright, striking and colorful. Many customers praise the staff for keeping



everything clean, neat, orderly and organized. They also appreciate the selection of materials in all the different formats. There is a gentleman who regularly visits Fairview and, when greeted by the librarian and

asked how he's doing always answers, "If I were any happier, I'd be working at the library!"



Books on tape and CD have always been in high demand at Fairview because of their Route 4 location. Commuters stop on their way home from work to check out tapes, CDs and Playaways and

everyone agrees that listening to books makes the commute much more pleasant. They also say it provides the opportunity to listen to books that they may not have time to read. Language tapes are also popular.

The Fairview Branch has developed partnerships in their community. The Garrett Music Academy, located right next door to the library, has donated many music books to the branch. Many parents drop off their children for music lessons and then pass the time in the library using a computer, reading a magazine or browsing for books. The UPS Store in Dunkirk has donated money quarterly to help sponsor the Book Express collection. When the tourism office is closed the librarians at Fairview can be seen and heard promoting Calvert County, suggesting things for visitors to see and do and also unfolding maps and providing directions.

Programs for children have expanded at this library. Storytime for preschoolers is year round and provided on Tuesdays and Saturdays. In 2008, the "Kids Just Want to Have Fun" program was added, as was the Guys Read book discussion group and the Sisterhood of the Traveling Book Club for fourth and fifth grade children. Summer Fun programs have been off site for many years and held at the Dunkirk Fire Department. The decade opened with TIME computer classes and is ending with streamlined Yes! You Can Use a Computer classes for adults monthly.

Like Twin Beaches, Fairview celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2001. The theme of "Your Favorite Things" and the activities of the day were also enjoyed by Fairview customers.

Over the years customers have suggested that there be an entrance to

Fairview Branch from Chaneyville Road. Staff agreed that would be a great idea as well and would investigate the possibility. Finally in 2008, Nick Garrett facilitated an agreement and a cut through to the Pavilion at God's Grace parking lot was approved by the County Commissioners. Now customers can enter from Chaneyville Road and avoid the U-turn and traffic of Route 4. Lisa Tassa, Branch Manager, states that customers are grateful for this improvement.


The Southern Branch located in Lusby, Maryland is housed in the Southern Community Center along with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Office on Aging. This arrangement allows all the agencies the unique experience of expanding their audience. Growth in the southern end of the community is reflected in more young families, retirees and others visiting the center. Two new schools, Dowell Elementary and Mill Creek Middle School have been built in the past ten years. There are three new shopping centers to serve this community. As the population has increased so has the value and usage of this library. Customers describe the Southern Branch as cozy and express their appreciation that staff know them by name and welcome them with a smile and hello. They know that whatever their need may be that it is of primary interest to the librarian.

The Southern Branch has a unique partnership with the Judy Center at Patuxent Elementary School. The mission of the Judy Center is to



provide comprehensive, integrated, full-day, full-year services that promote school readiness for children birth through age five. One initiative to promote early childhood learning was for each child at Patuxent Elementary and the Judy Center to get a library card. An

administrator from the Judy Center picked up applications from the library, encouraged parent cooperation and participation and then hand delivered completed applications back to the library. Librarians at Southern spent countless hours making a library card for each and every child. Patuxent also issues passports to their students over both the Easter and Christmas holiday. When the children visit the library and have their passport stamped by a librarian they become eligible for prizes. The school also promotes participation in the library's summer reading club and summer fun programs.



Students in the Art Honor Society at Patuxent High School partner with the Southern Branch Library by painting a mural on the windows of the children's department each summer and winter.

In October of 2008, the Southern Branch and other agencies in the Southern Community Center celebrated their 20th year of operation with a party. There were many dignitaries in attendance, live music, food and cake, as well as a magician on hand to entertain the children.

Southern too has taken some of their programming off site. When the air conditioning in the facility did not work for three weeks one summer, library summer fun programs were presented in the gym of Patuxent Elementary School. It was a win-win situation for all as children attending summer activities at the school were able to attend quality performances by professional entertainers sponsored by the library. Robert Gatton and Melissa DeCesaris, children's librarians at Southern have done special themed programs at the pavilion on Solomons Island and Annmarie Garden. These programs are very well attended and expose families to other county resources.

Calvert Conversations was started at the Southern Branch, hosted by Anne Whisman, and has been continued by Southern staff. People gather in the comfortable seating area of the branch to discuss politics, town plans and topics of local interest. Additionally most of the Southern staff facilitates monthly book discussions.

Branch manager Trudy Mihalcik participates in the Solomons Business Association and has attended the Lusby Town Center Village Green Design Workshop. Working in Lusby she believes it to be important to be involved in the community as an advocate for the library.

In 1999 a new van was purchased to provide Outreach Services. Just as the original bookmobile served the community four days a week, this van too is on the road four days per week visiting the homes of shut-ins, licensed daycare centers, nursing homes, retirement communities, adult day care services, Head Start locations and the county's detention center. The van is appropriately named "Special Editions". A visit from the outreach librarians is really very special to those unable to visit the library. Customers can request specific subjects, authors or titles and have them delivered right to their door. Cindy Parker and Dominique Gaetano are welcomed warmly at each stop. In the fall of 2001, the outreach librarians began taking storytime programs to the daycare centers on their route. Youngsters are entertained with stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts just as the children who visit the library.

# Special Events

At Hofmann's goal of reaching every citizen and Public Relations Coordinator, Robyn Truslow's willingness to try almost any program that a customer suggests and Children's Coordinator, Beverly Izzi's desire to have as many children as possible use and enjoy their library has resulted in a wide variety of program offerings. Between 1999 and 2009 programming increased dramatically at our libraries. Some programs were special events and others were held weekly, monthly or seasonally. Each and every one was unique.

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

There is a program for children of every age at the Calvert Library. This past decade children's librarians created programs to appeal to the school age child as well as the preschooler.

Most everyone knows that reading makes one smarter and that children need to be exposed to reading from birth. The Calvert Library makes it easy by providing an interactive **storytime** adventure using



books, music, stories, fingerplays, flannel boards and crafts.

The setting promotes brain development and a love of reading and cultivates important social skills such as how to listen and how to behave in a group. Children develop large motor skills

through dancing and motions related to a story, and fine motor skills through crafts. Storytime also provides parents with the opportunity to meet and mingle with parents and caregivers of other young children. Calvert Library has been providing storytime programs for fifty years but in recent years has added storytime programs in the summer and a Saturday storytime at each branch. Cuddle Up and Read to Me created in 1999 is a storytime program designed for children birth to two years old. Children are introduced to books and language through stories, songs and other activities. Children's librarians organize holiday parties for storytimers each year. At Halloween the children and their storytime

teachers come in costume and parade through the branch. Each year, Bonnie Spicknall gives each storytime child at Fairview a small pumpkin grown on her Dunkirk farm. Calvert Library helps children start school ready to learn! A special storytime program was held on Saturday April 28, 2001 with the first lady for the state of Maryland, Frances Hughes Glendening, to celebrate the Month of the Young Child.

**Monday Morning Movies and More** is an hour long program held weekly at the library in Prince Frederick. Young children are entertained with stories, songs and a short movie. Active toddlers and their parents really enjoy attending.

**Kids Just Want to Have Fun** programs are created for children in grades kindergarten through third grade and are offered both in the afternoon and evening. Children meet regularly to read, discuss and

create projects on diverse themes. These topics could range from art to chocolate, dragons to rock and roll, and geography to science.



The **Harry Potter** series of books created lots of excitement in the publishing world and Calvert County both. Not wanting to miss an opportunity to celebrate reading, the library hosted a Harry Potter party on March 16, 2002. The 70 participants and Harry Potter fans each made and decorated a wizard's hat, made fortune takers, did puzzles, tried out for the Quidditch team and participated in "It's Harry Potter" an activity similar to the TV show "It's Academic". The seventh and

final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was published in 2007. This time Calvert Library celebrated with a book release party beginning at 9:30 p.m. on July 20, 2007 and lasting until midnight. The Friends of the Library funded the program and there were approximately 200 readers of all ages in attendance. At 12:01 a.m. July 21, 2007 participants left the building with their own pre-ordered books.

Each branch begins the holiday season with **Gingerbread House** workshops. Librarians cut graham crackers and make gallons of icing prior to the programs and the children bring bags of candy for



decorating. Each little house is a masterpiece and participants leave feeling proud. The libraries smell sweet and sugary all day long.

**Family Trees and ZZZ's**, an event coordinated by Beverly Izzi, invited parents to bring their kids to spend the night among the stacks in the library while learning about their family history. Families did research using both books and computers, created a family tree, participated in a scavenger hunt and enjoyed an ice cream social.



**Chess Club and Books Discussions for Homeschoolers** is a weekly activity at Calvert Library Prince Frederick for children who are educated at home. Three weeks of the month participants play chess and in the fourth week they discuss books, for example, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Calvert Library has two unique, active book discussion groups for 4th and 5th graders titled **Sisterhood of the Traveling Book Club** and **Guys Read**. The books chosen for each are entertaining and fun to read.

Calvert Library even goes to the dogs! At the Calvert Library Prince Frederick children have the opportunity to **Paws to Read**. Members of the Chesapeake Kennel Club and friends bring registered therapy dogs to listen to a child read. Dogs sit or lie close and listen quietly as children read aloud to them, creating a calm and encouraging environment. It's



the ultimate in nonjudgmental support for beginning or reluctant readers with the added bonus of nice, soft fur.

Other notable events were: a kite making workshop, fun and games around the world, Magic Tree House and Super Sleuth.

Culture, entertainment and fun come almost to the doorstep of every child each summer

when the library hosts professional performers. For seven weeks, five programs are presented weekly at four locations within the county. Past **Summer Fun** programs featured Hal Trapkin's Percussion Discussion,

the Maryland Science Center, Magician Mike Rose, Amazing Feats of Comedy, Chesapeake Youth Players, and the Stevens Puppets. The most popular performer who is a must see every summer is Michael Schwedick of Reptile World who features favorites like Banana Boy, an albino Indian Rock Python and Alexander the Great, a Snapping Turtle.



To keep children's reading skills fresh over the summer Calvert Library sponsors a **Summer Reading Club.**

In 1999 Calvert Library designed its own theme for summer reading called "All-Star Readers Score Big with Books". Children were given a booklet to record all the titles of books they read throughout the summer. An entry form for each book read was filled out and entered into a drawing for prizes to be awarded at the end of the summer.

In 2000, Calvert Library joined with the other 23 public library systems in Maryland, the Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically



Handicapped and the District of Columbia Public Library to provide a themed reading club featuring mascot **Sneaks, the Cat.** Sneaks is owned by the Baltimore County Public Library System who has been generous to share him with the rest of the

state. Children were given a bag that included a game board full of fun activities, a bookmark and tickets to a Bowie Baysox game. As children completed a set of reading activities on their game board, they came into the library to receive a prize. Children who completed all four of the activities were entered into a drawing for additional prizes like two tickets to a Baltimore Orioles game.

## *Themes between 2000 and 2007 were:*

2000 Reading Rhythms Adventure

2001 Buggy about Reading

2002 Race to Read

2003 Blast off to Reading

2004 Readers Rule

2005 Wild about Reading

2006 Clue into Reading

2007 Reading Road Trip

This reading program was a cooperative project between the local public libraries, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Division of Library Development and Services with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In 2007, a **Flat Sneaks** was created by reproducing and laminating a colored picture of the mascot Sneaks. Sneaks could then be taken on the road with staff and young customers as they traveled to their vacation spots. All were encouraged to take a picture with Flat Sneaks while on vacation that could be displayed in the library upon return.

In 2008, Calvert Library and the state of Maryland became part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a program which includes 46 states and the District of Columbia. Our theme for summer reading was “Catch the Reading Bug”. At Calvert Library there were three options available. The Babies Read-to-Me Club was for babies birth to two years old. Catch the Reading Bug was for pre-readers. For every five books read children were awarded a prize. Children reading chapter books could join the Metamorphosis club. These children were awarded a prize when they completed 150 minutes of reading. In addition this year, an online component was added and participants were able to add their book review electronically on their own personalized summer reading web page.



In 2009, Calvert Library again will participate with the nationwide collaborative and the theme will be “Be Creative @ Your Library.”

## TWEEN EVENTS

The second Friday of each month, Tween programs are offered at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. Programs alternate monthly so



that each year there are **movie nights** and **game nights**. The tweens enjoy snacks and drinks while socializing.

**Book to Film** programs have been presented for the Tweens. On one occasion, they read the book *Millions*, and then came to the library to watch the film. The discussion compared

the two formats, their similarities and their differences.

In June, July and August of each year, **Tween Book Discussions** are presented. The first 15 families to sign up receive a free copy of the book from our partner, the Calvert County Literacy Council. Some titles read are *Becoming Naomi Leon* and *Heartbeat*.

Another Tween event was a craft night when children made holiday cards, picture frames and jewelry. Kids come and meet their friends or make new friends. Everyone is welcoming and they get along easily.

Partners for Tween events include the Friends of the Library, Papa John's and Calvert Apex Cinema.

## TEEN EVENTS

The first Friday of each month, teen events are offered at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. There are **movie nights** and **game nights**. Not to be missed is **Fright Night** in October of each year as teens come dressed up and win prizes for the best costume. This evening of fun is rounded out with a scary movie, creepy costumes, games and popcorn.

The new **Calvert Library Rocks!** was the first teen band night held on Friday January 19, 2007. This event featured local teen bands Countermind and White Shadow. Participants could experiment with an instrument in the "petting zoo" or participate in discussions with Nick Garrett of the Garrett Music Academy. In 2008, teen band night took place on February 29, 2008 and performing at this event were

Aftershock, Graceful Downfall and Fall Away. Lisa Slayton describes teen band night as “a time for kids to come out and listen to local bands.” Door prizes were awarded and one young woman who won a guitar is currently taking lessons. Nick Garrett has been invaluable with his assistance in organizing these events. He has an excellent relationship with his music students and teens both.



Another free program for teens involved making hemp bracelets and necklaces as well as wrapping paper for Christmas gifts.

Each month teens are invited to bring original work to the **Teen Creative Writing** programs. They can discuss their project with other teens and author Joan Kay, the leader.

Teens too have **summer book discussions**. They receive a free book when they sign up. Past titles read include *Red Kayak*, *24 Girls in 7 Day*, and *Leaving Protection*. Cathey Moffatt led a discussion of the book *Twilight* by Stephenie Myer on June 26, 2008, well before the release of the hit movie. Twenty-six teens came to the library to talk about this popular title, proving that teens love to read.

Teen events are sponsored by Papa John's, Calvert Apex Cinema, and the Calvert County Cigarette Restitution Fund Program through the Calvert County Health Department.

## GAMING

Bringing people together for **gaming** is valuable because it is an activity that cuts across age, socioeconomic groups, gender and technical know-how. It's an opportunity to meet new people, socialize and exercise. Gaming at Calvert Library ranges from board game nights for Teens and Tweens, to Scrabble games on Saturday mornings, Chess Club for homeschoolers, programs like Fun and Games around the World and Nintendo Wii. Wii games at Calvert Library include active games like Dance Dance Revolution and Wii Sports. The library has Wii gaming programs for every age group.



## ADULT EVENTS

**Key Ingredients: America by Food** was a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Museum on Main Street exhibit that explored how culture, ethnicity, class, landscape and tradition influence the foods and flavors we enjoy. It was a thoughtful and provocative look at the historical, regional and social traditions that merge into everyday meals and special celebrations. The display was at the Calvert Library Prince Frederick from January 11 to February 23, 2008. Key Ingredients activities included a recipe contest, restaurant week, a placemat design contest, an actress portraying Julia Child, and a cookbook author. The library hosted two additional programs related to the exhibit: "Warm Up to Reading — Exploring Recipes to Raise a Reader" and Black History Month's "Wholesome Soul Food." This exhibit was sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council.

**Hooks and Books** is a monthly program where participants gather around the fireplace and work on their craft projects and discuss the books they are reading.

**Reinventing a Life: Workshop in Creative Memoirs** is a monthly program led by Elisavietta Ritchie, a published poet and author. This program provides the opportunity for budding authors to learn how to get their thoughts and stories on paper and perhaps even published.

**Tuesday Tunes** is a free concert series of musical performances presented each spring at the library in Prince Frederick. The range of music has included swing, folk, country, blues and jazz. Performers over the last decade included "Take it Izzi," a family group of musicians with special guest Emily Bowen, "Acoustic Eidolon," "Rockfish," Joe Norris also known as "Longman," "Patuxent Voices of Praise," and "The Nick Garrett Band," to name a few. Calvert Library wishes to extend sincere appreciation to Pat Nutter for providing sound support for "Acoustic Eidolon."

During this decade, library staff provided computer classes for adult learners. With **TIME** (Today's Information Made Easy) **Training**, small groups of 5 or 6 students learned to use the mouse, search the Internet and use library databases. Based on customer input, TIME was replaced with Yes! You CAN Use a Computer!, a shorter streamlined training with topics such as email, resumé writing, and creating Word documents. Yes! You CAN Use a Computer! teaches practical skills for job seekers and helps community members expand their computer knowledge.

**Master Gardeners** are graduates of the Maryland Cooperative

Extension Office Master Gardener's Program. Their purpose is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices to build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. The Master Gardeners present an annual series covering such topics as organic gardening, compost and bayscaping, low impact traditional gardening, perennials, pruning, landscaping, lawn maintenance, native plants, vegetable gardening, invasive plants and container gardening. What a marvelous opportunity to learn from the pros.



**Calvert Performing Arts Series** events have included: *Snoopy!!! The Musical* — an outstanding Broadway Show that brought the Peanuts gang to Calvert County in April of 2001. The Peabody Ragtime Ensemble appeared in 2002. In 2003, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, based on the original book by Roald Dahl, was presented simultaneously in American Sign Language and Spoken English. Also in 2003, Barry Louis Polisar, a singer of funny kid songs, had the audience rolling

with laughter. Everyone was spellbound as the Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats entertained in 2004. At the 2005 “Bjorn Again — the ABBA Experience” performance, the audience sang along to the music of the disco generation. In 2006, the Golden Dragon Acrobats from Cangzhou Hebei province in China performed at Huntingtown High School. This troupe had appeared in all 50 states and more than 65 countries on five continents at many prestigious venues prior to their visit to Calvert County. Other outstanding programs included Kathleen Jacobs and Puppets, Step Afrika! USA, a percussive dance ensemble, and The Alexandria Harmonizers, a barbershop harmony style of music with a 100-voice sound.

“**On the Go with Calvert Library**” are destination events that can be entertaining, fun, interesting, educational or all of the above. These programs provide people with the opportunity to share common interests with a group. A recent Veteran's Day trip was a visit to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D. C. People of all ages were able to take a bus trip to the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., where they could meet with and listen to famous authors and then have copies of their works signed by the author. Friends old or new cruised across the Chesapeake Bay to Tilghman Island, Maryland and then had dinner at Harrison's Chesapeake House Country Inn. To

celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Chesapeake Bay voyage of Captain John Smith, participants cruised on the Bay with guest speaker Wayne Clark. Joanie Kilmon and Susan Howes are on the alert for fresh ideas and fun places to go.

The monthly **Poet's Corner** program gives people the opportunity to join with other poets and discuss their recent work.

Calvert Library presented **Nikki Giovanni** on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at the Mary Harrison Center. Nikki Giovanni, a nationally acclaimed African American poet, essayist and children's writer, did a reading and a book signing. According to her biography, Giovanni is a strong voice in the black community. Her focus is on the individual and the power one has to make a difference in oneself, and thus in the lives of others. It was a celebration enjoyed by hundreds of our citizens.

**Meet the Author** programs are always well attended and Calvert Library has hosted such local authors as Mary Blayney, Carter Gray, Pete Hurrey, Helen Wheeler, Eileen Doran-Smith, Michael Kauffman, Maryann Cusimano, Joyce Darrell, and many, many others. Connie Reeves, author of *Hawthorne's Cottage*, has the added distinction of being the mother of staff member Jessica Lewis.

Each library location in the county hosts a **book group** each month. All that is required is that participants read the selection and come to the library for the discussion. The discussions are led by either a librarian or special guest with expertise in the book, the author or the genre.



**Black History** programs in February are researched and created by staff member Glenda Fields and other team

members. County students and community leaders often participate in Black History Month programs. Topics have included African American Achievers and the history of African American music.

Other outstanding programs offered over the years were Holiday Decorating with Live Greens, Buying and Selling on eBay, Basics of Genealogy Workshop – your family tree, How to buy a Digital Camera, and financial programs. The library also celebrates **Women's History Month** in March.

## *New Services*

During the past ten years the library has started many new services and enhancements.




In July of 1999, a grant of \$10,000.00 was awarded by the Division of Library Development and Services to be used to market the library. Pat Hofmann and Shirley

McCarthy worked closely with Connie James of Unique Designs who was chosen as the marketing planner. In the year 2000, Calvert Library adopted a new look. A new logo, stationery and business cards were created in purple and white and featured the words “imagination . . . information . . . inspiration.” We were branded!

Calvert librarians are experts when it comes to putting people and books together. This is called reader’s advisory service. One tool they use to learn more about books is a database provided by SMRLA called **NextReads**. Staff and customers looking for good books to read can sign up for this e-newsletter and get great book suggestions by email. Reading lists are delivered right to their inbox. They can also check immediately whether the items are available at their local library or whether they’ve been checked out. Newsletters include but aren’t limited to such topics as historical fiction, home, garden and “do it yourself”, biography and memoir, mystery and popular culture. This service is not only for adults but kid’s books, tween reads and teen scene are also available. **NoveListPlus**, a database accessed from the COSMOS homepage [www.cosmos.somd.lib.us](http://www.cosmos.somd.lib.us) can help you find the perfect book. NoveListPlus is an electronic readers’ advisory resource which assists fiction and non-fiction readers in finding new authors and titles.

The **adult new reader** collection is a section of materials located in each library for adults who are improving their reading skills. This area was set up with money from a federally funded grant, through the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services. Marcia Hammett and Robyn Truslow spent the funds wisely on books, tapes, a computer, and software. Many of the books in this collection offer help with getting a job, life skills, citizenship and language skills. Each library branch has this special collection.



In the late 1990's, Shirley McCarthy and Kathie Eichfeld made a commitment to provide an up-to-date community information database for use by Guideline, the telephone referral service operated by the Local Management Board. Then in May 2003, the reference librarians in Prince Frederick agreed to take over this service, continuing to provide information about how to get help in Calvert County for such issues as housing, child care, substance abuse, emergency food and many other problems.

Some of the new services provided at Calvert Library weren't even a thought in the previous decades of our library. By June of 2003, the **DVD** was the most popular format for home video entertainment. Calvert Library kept pace with technology and began circulating popular DVD titles to their customers. **Books on CD** are now shelved next to the very popular books on tape. Maryland's Digital eLibrary Consortium and the company Overdrive provide such **downloadable media** as audiobooks in WMA or MP3 formats and downloadable videos. **My Library DV** is a unique video-on demand service created by Recorded Books for the library. You can download from a collection of over 1,000 movies, TV series and lifestyle programs 24/7 anywhere you have a broadband Internet connection. And, best of all, the videos are always available as there are never any holds. **Playaways** are the simplest way to listen to a book on the go. They are small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, come with the audio content already on it and a battery to make it play. A customer simply plugs in the earphones and enjoys.

On July 1, 2004, the library introduced a new service called **Book Express**. Book Express features brand new popular titles that are checked out for one week. Customers may find best sellers just waiting for them on the shelves because of the fast turn around time. Carolyn Graessle worked with a team to implement this project and work out all the logistics to make it successful in Calvert County.

**Maryland AskUsNow!** is a 24/7 live online interactive service for the residents and students of the state of Maryland. This cooperative effort brings together the resources of public, academic and special libraries. It uses the expertise of trained librarians to provide answers to questions, research guidance, and help navigating the Internet. Librarians are able to take customers to useful websites and communicate with customers using Internet chat. Margie Rhoden is Calvert's liaison for this state-wide endeavor.

In April of 2005, Calvert's version of the new statewide library card was introduced. With the new library card, people can go to 170 plus libraries across the state of Maryland and borrow materials. The new card was

created using lenticular printing, a technology for making 3D images or movement. Tilted in one direction it reads Calvert Library and lists all of the facilities. The other direction reveals a large red circle with an M (for Maryland) in the middle and the words “My Maryland Public Libraries Know No Boundaries”. Under the circle reads “Power Card”.



Calvert Library, in partnership with the Optimist Club of Calvert, provides a book to each child born at Calvert Memorial Hospital. In addition to the book, *Read to Your Bunny*, the parent of each newborn receives an **I Read to my Baby** bag filled with a number of items that

encourage parents to read to their children. The Optimists and the library share a mutual goal of improving the lives of children in our community. Preparing these bags is a project shared by many library volunteers.

Each Calvert Library branch has an extensive **parenting collection** in or near the children’s department. Colleen Cano, Children’s Supervisor, started this collection by reading reviews and selecting the best titles in this area. It is kept up to date by our Reference Services Coordinator, Robbie McGaughan. Books are available to guide the reader through pregnancy and childbirth. Other titles focus on keeping children healthy and safe from infant to young adult. Every imaginable question can be researched and explored. So for advice on discipline, play, education, creativity or siblings, this area is valuable to anyone who is raising children.

A partnership formed with the Calvert County Department of Economic Development resulted in a **Small Business Resource Center** at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. Initial funding from this agency was used to purchase multiple copies of books to help with planning, financing, marketing, public relations, structure and other topics necessary to create a small business. Pamela Perrygo and Sheila Hejl selected the books and established this center directly behind the reference desk. Economic Development staff Kelly Robertson Slagle, Business Retention Specialist, and Danita Boonchaisri, Marketing/Communications Specialist, fund a variety of business magazines and provide valuable brochures and booklets from their resource partners.



Each of the four libraries now has **wireless** capability. BAE Systems provided and installed the wireless system and Internet access is provided by Comcast. Customers love the capability of accessing the Internet via their laptop computers.

When you click on “Search the Internet” from the Calvert Library homepage you will discover Cathey Moffatt’s project that makes using the Internet easier. You can search recommended sites with Google, use a list of sites recommended by library staff and access a list of search engines. This is a quick way to get to authoritative web sites.

Calvert Library and Calvert County Public Schools formalized a partnership in 2003, called CLASS or “Calvert Library Assists School Success”. This partnership allowed the library to expand school visits and now each year librarians visit every 1st, 4th and 6th grade classroom. Students learn about library databases, services and programs. CLASS also gives students the opportunity to meet one of their local librarians who will help them at the public library. Many classes travel to their library branch for tours and special programs. Robbie McGaughran is the library’s liaison with the public school system.



In September 2006, under the leadership of Patti McConnell, the Teen Advisory Council of Students, or **TACOS** held their first meeting with representatives from each of the high schools. This group makes recommendations of authors, titles, artists, musicians and films to purchase that teens would enjoy. They also sponsored a photography contest and a pizza tasting event.

One of the best gifts that you can give your child is a love of reading. **Board books** are sturdy enough for even the youngest child to handle and the library has hundreds of titles to borrow. The “**I Can Read**” collection, used to help children develop reading skills at their own pace, has been hugely expanded at all the libraries. One new format in literature is the **graphic novel** which is a novel whose narrative is related through a combination of text and art, often in comic book form. Brian Real applied his expertise in selecting titles with wide appeal. **Comics** too are in



libraries today and can be checked out just like books. Music has always been available in the library but now there is something for everyone. Regardless of the genre or artist that you love you will find something to enjoy in the **music CD** collection. Customers are now able to check out **electronic games** for PlayStation 2 and 3, Xbox, or Nintendo Wii. Popular titles such as *Big Brain Academy* and *Madden NFL 09* and *Tony Hawk's Proving Ground* can be checked out for one week from any branch.

Each branch has two **early literacy computers** that make learning fun for children. These are computer stations with educational software targeted for toddlers through children in third grade. Children can open the door to a lifetime of learning and explore the world in either English or Spanish. Beverly Izzi applied for and received funding from a Starting School Ready to Learn Grant through the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services. Children look adorable in their panda head phones as they learn math, reading and computer skills.



Some topics available in the “**Storytime to Go**” packets are Nursery Rhymes, Dinosaurs, Dance and Under the Sea. “Storytime to Go” is a themed kit created by Emily Bowen and Mary Perdue as a special project and are for children ages 2-3 or 4-5. Packaged in small clear backpacks each kit contains two books, an audio-

visual item and a craft idea. These are wonderful for caregivers and children checking them out are proud to wear the backpack home.

**Technology** has allowed customers to be more independent when visiting the library. Envisionware and PC Reservation allow the customer with a library card in hand to sit down at any one of the public access computers and get right to work. In Prince Frederick customers can even check out their own materials using the express checkout station. Notifying customers of holds and overdue materials via email and



automated phone message for holds are timely for the customers and cost saving for the library. The computers are up to date and well maintained as a result of Maria Jolley and Joey Rawlings's efforts.

The Calvert Library homepage has a link titled **Your Input**. To be added as an author

on one of the following blogs, customers can click on the address and send a comment.

**TEENSZEEN** — <http://teenszeen.blogspot.com> is a blog for the creative writing teens of Calvert County.

**CREATIVE MEMOIRS** — <http://creativememoirs.blogspot.com> is a place for participants of the Reinventing a Life: Workshop in Creative Memoirs to post their essays and poems.

**POETRY CAFE** — <http://calvertpoetry.blogspot.com> is a place for poetry café folks to post their poems.

**HARRY POTTER** — <http://www.calvertmuggles.blogspot.com> is a site created by Gigi Songy for everything Harry Potter. Ask questions, read trivia or link to other Harry Potter sites.

**CALVERT LOCALVORES** — <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/calvertlocalvores> is an online discussion group whose aim is to create a community that educates and enlightens members on ways to find, grow, prepare, and serve food and drink that is truly local and truly sustainable.

If a customer searches the library catalog and doesn't find a book they think the library should own they can click on the sentence, "Would the Library Consider Buying this Item?" and use the form to request that the library purchase it. A person could also review the library's "Materials Selection Policy" here.

And finally from our home page customers can ask to be emailed information on library events for the upcoming month. Allyson Evans continually revises our web page, keeping it current, colorful and fun.

The library delights in the feedback we receive from our customers. As a learning organization, we work hard to anticipate trends and implement new services for our customers.

# Teams

At Calvert Library collaboration and cooperation is valued. Through teamwork staff is able to contribute to the improvement and success of the library. Team members believe that thinking, planning, decision making, and taking action is best done as a group when working on a project. Each team has a purpose, a challenge and responsibilities. Camaraderie with their co-workers is a benefit of teamwork.

Within Calvert Library there is the Teen Team under the leadership of Cathey Moffatt and Patti McConnell, the Tween Team led by Michelle Taylor and Cynthia Lawrence, the CLASS (Calvert Library Assists School Success) Team whose leaders are Joe Ruff and Carolyn Lenz and the Gaming Team led by Brian Real and Barbara Thorp. Service teams in the library include Circulation, Reference, Processing, Acquisitions, Technology, Children's, Marketing, Management, BMC (Branch Managers and Coordinators), On the Go with Calvert Library, Keeping Work Fun and Business.



These teams create programs, plan events, visit schools, visit businesses, brainstorm better ways of providing service, design bookmarks and create clever interesting displays. Everyone participates and contributes

their skills to each activity. One benefit, on the personal level, is the opportunity for staff to work with people from other branches or departments. It also allows people to be creative, try new things, develop their strengths and grow in the library system.

SMRLA brings representatives from the three southern Maryland counties together to exchange ideas, make decisions, review products, and to share information and skills. These teams are: Directors, Circulation Supervisors, Reference, Tech Support, Acquisitions, Children's Services, Branch Managers and Marketing. Through these meetings, contacts are established with people at other libraries. It also provides an opportunity to learn what's new and innovative at these libraries.

# Staff

Calvert Library staff is described as the library's "greatest asset."

When asked to describe Calvert librarians, words like "high achievers," "visionary," "task-oriented," "friendly," "non-judgmental," "good listeners," "approachable," "respectful" and "fun" are spoken readily.

Each person visiting Calvert Library receives individual service as each customer's need or desire is unique. One customer may ask a reference question, another attend a program, someone else may be looking for a good read. Staff enthusiastically assists customers with whatever they need.

When asked what makes them proud, library employees have much to say. More than one person noted that in January of 2007, the month of the Calvert Library Prince Frederick grand opening celebration, that a special event was presented each day. Another staff member noted how



proud she was that the library hosted two Teen Band nights. These events were so opposite of the traditional library image or way teens may have perceived the library in the past. They were also held when the library was closed and outside normal staff hours.

Tween team members are proud of the family book discussions held in June, July, and August of each year. Children and parents read the same book then come to the library to discuss them. Kids and parents communicate and share their thoughts and ideas about books read. Tweens develop their communication skills in a safe and friendly environment. They also appreciate that the Literacy Council provides, free of charge, a book to each family and then a second book of their choice for all who attend the actual program. Access to the Internet has leveled the playing field for providing reference service and answering questions at the branches. It is no longer necessary to purchase as many costly reference materials and multivolume sets. Others are proud of the number of computers available for public use and high speed Internet connections. If a student doesn't own a computer, they are capable of

creating outstanding reports and projects by using the tools freely offered at the library. Everyone is proud that all branches are open the same 61 hours per week. The director and the staff at all four libraries set the goal of circulating one million items in FY2008. They proudly exceeded the goal by circulating 1,034,042 items.


As our population grew, so did the use of the library and library materials. The library staff has grown from 36 employees in 1999 to 55 in 2009. This growth enabled all branches to be open the same number of hours each week. It also made the volume of services and special events provided to the community possible. The County Commissioners have been extremely supportive of the library over the years. The budget has grown and the expanded services have been possible due to this financial support. The Commissioners realize that the library touches every resident and that we help to build a strong community in Calvert County. They built Calvert Library Prince Frederick to be a flagship for the county. Our citizens love to be here. Many groups and agencies from around the state have held meetings in the new library.

Calvert Library employees are very well trained. Samples of this training include the Library Associate Training Institute, Better Communication = Better Customer Service, Leading from Any Position, A Framework for Understanding Poverty, Grant Writing, Asset Development, Achieving School Readiness, Microsoft Office products both through online learning and at Keep It Simple, Computer Training in Prince Frederick. A staff development grant is awarded annually by the state and Calvert applies these funds to keep staff knowledgeable. The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) provides training as well that encompasses classes for the newest employee to courses for the seasoned professional. Not all positions at Calvert Library require a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. Many employees found that they loved library work and wanted more education, knowledge and skill and therefore earned this degree after being employed by the library.

In 2000, LATI participants created “Info Express” as their final project. Information Express was a staff training notebook that included activities on topics like circulation, the Internet, computer programs, Microsoft Office products, and MARINA (inter-library loan), to name a few. In 2007, librarians recognized that additional skills were needed to remain relevant and all staff trained in the latest web technologies using Library 2.0 or 23 Things. Staff members designed their own avatars, created blogs and podcasts, tried out Flickr, set up RSS feeds and learned about wikis.

Calvert Library staff takes “FISH Training—How to Have Fun at





Work” to heart and make it their philosophy. The staff chooses to bring a good attitude to work each and every day. Their smiles, greetings, and “making things fun” attitude is contagious. Hats play a major role when making things fun at Calvert Library. On International Tiara Day, many staff members can be seen wearing tiaras. Bunny ears are worn at Easter with female staff member wearing pink ears and male staff wearing blue ears. During the World Series staff can sport the baseball cap of their favorite team. On or about January 8th you might see the staff wearing pink and black in honor of Elvis Presley’s birth date. On all patriotic holidays, librarians are encouraged to wear red, white and blue. Fun reading initiatives for adults have included Reading A to Z and bingo. Clever, themed displays are created to promote books and reading. The end cap displays are awesome and encourage customers to read new topics and authors. Staff bakes cookies for Customer Appreciation Day as a way of saying thank you to people for using the library. Calvert Library is a fun place to be!


Your Calvert librarians can be found at almost every large event in the county. Maybe you’ve seen them at the Calvert County Fair or Read Across America, the celebration in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday. In costume and ready for fun, your librarians may be spotted at Annmarie Gardens or the Chesapeake Beach Water Park participating in Halloween activities. The Bee for Literacy always has a team of librarians competing. We keep trying but haven’t won yet – maybe next year! The library staff has participated in Relay for Life since 2006. Staff likes to be out in the community telling folks about all the wonderful services available at the library. But most often staff members are seen out in the community doing normal everyday activities. Many times while shopping, a librarian will be asked a reference question or about the hours of operation or if there are any new books by a certain author. They welcome the exchange. But the children’s librarians are the most famous when seen out and about. Storytime children just beam when they see their “teacher” and are so proud when that teacher greets them with a smile.

Librarians also have stories to tell; stories that make them smile or fill their hearts with happiness. Kate Troutman has one of the best library stories ever. A mother and her four children, two girls and two boys, came to the library to get new cards. Kate had the four applications and the four newly prepared cards in front of her and asked, “Who is who? Let’s start with the girls first.” The youngest in the group, a little boy of about five years, waited patiently and was last to receive his card in the ‘I’m a Reader’ case. When he finally had it in hand, he leaned across the counter and softly said to Kate, “I love you.” Pam Bell from the Fairview Branch will never forget the woman she helped who was having a problem finding a book with the exact poem she needed.

Pam discovered that the online poetry database was going to be most helpful. When they found the poem, the woman told Pam that this was the poem her father had requested to be read at his funeral and her father was not doing well. Weeks later, a huge floral bouquet was delivered to Pam at the library. It was from the customer's father's funeral. The woman wanted to say thank you for finding the poem so that it could be read. Recently Pat was on her way to the storytime room for a Friends of the Library meeting. Seeing two girls with headphones working at the computers, she smiled and asked them if they liked the library computers. Of course they answered yes, but one child asked with excitement in her voice, "Are you going to storytime?" The child thought that Pat was pretty darn lucky if she was. When exiting the same meeting an hour later, a four year old sitting at the computer with his dad looked up at Pat and with disappointment in his voice and on his face then said, "Oh, you're not my storytime teacher." Talking with the father, Pat learned that he brought his four children to the library every week. Regular family outings such as these translate to a smarter community. Martha Grahame has been taking children to story time for twenty years. She started with her granddaughters, Emily and Allyson, then grandsons Drew, Mason and Jack. They would have lunch and then proceed to storytime. It was such a special time for each of them and they all developed into readers. Getting library cards was a proud moment. Today, when it doesn't interfere with nap time, Martha brings her great granddaughter Brooklyn to Cuddle Up and Read to Me storytime.

Three former storytime children grew up to become Calvert librarians. Sarah Avant was a storytime attendee at the Fairview Branch Library. Brian Real attended storytime at the Twin Beaches Branch and is remembered fondly by "Miss Pam" Perrygo. Today, Barbara Thorp is known as "Miss Barbara" and presents storytime programs for children in Prince Frederick. She works along side Judith Upton who was her former storytime teacher. Two who served as pages and have been hired in recent years as librarians are Sarah Avant and Molly Crumbley. We can't help but wonder if any of the children attending programs today will choose librarianship as a career.

Calvert librarians provide outstanding service to the community. One example of outstanding service provided by Calvert Library staff involved an AP History assignment given to students at Huntingtown High School. Students were required to view the film *Alive* over the summer. Public Services Librarian Linda Buckley noticed that there were seventeen requests for the video and that school would be starting shortly. She suggested that the library have a showing of the film so that all the students who placed a request would have the opportunity to view the film and successfully complete their assignment. When



Brian Real found it impossible to borrow the movie through Netflix, he purchased a copy and donated it to the library. He and Allyson Evans then scheduled a show date and invited all the students who had requested the film. Brian also contacted one of the AP history teachers with hopes of reaching other students. The original screening of *Alive* at Calvert Library had 15 students in attendance. This experience evolved into Cinema Café, a film and discussion series on political, non-partisan movies. One of the AP History teachers at Huntingtown High gives extra credit to students who participate and about a dozen students join interested adults each month.

Graduate school and the Library Associate Training Institute require that a project be created to successfully complete the program. Many amazing contributions have been made to Calvert Library by staff participants. Colleen Cano created a volunteer notebook for the library as part of her Master's Degree. Another project was a website, Calvert County History Digital Library, designed by Lisa Tassa in November 2003. She created this website, Calvert County, Maryland; Celebrating 350 years, as a graduate school project. It can be currently explored at: [www.calvert.lib.md.us/history/index.htm](http://www.calvert.lib.md.us/history/index.htm). A link from this page is the Calvert Library History — a project of Karina Lopez and Barbara Thorp. Jo-Ann Kery created a program for children in second to fifth grade about fossil identification titled "Fossil Hunter." Children each received a mystery bag where they had to determine which type of fossil was inside, based on the size, shape and texture. They also participated in a scavenger hunt where they searched for vertebrae, shells, bones, barnacles and teeth at the Library in Prince Frederick. Sarah Avant and Jess Swain updated the emergency manual for our library. Donnie Storms's Library Associate Training Institute project was a Wii program for children in kindergarten and first grades exclusively. This program provided an introduction to electronics and gaming for this age group. The beauty of the program was that the children helped each other and parents learned as well. These are just a sampling of projects created by this talented staff.

One day in this decade, September 11, 2001, will never be forgotten as it was the day terrorists crashed airplanes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Sheila Hejl and Pat Hofmann were having a brief meeting in Pat's office. Paulita Hills and Maria Jolley, who shared this office, were hard at work. Susan Howes entered the office to say that a plane had just crashed into the Pentagon and to ask if we could turn on the television. Susan's son Tommy, a firefighter at National Airport, was among the first on the scene to fight the fast-spreading fire and to begin search and rescue operations. It was with horror and disbelief that we watched replays of

these crashes. Although many staff members were concerned for family or friends who worked at these locations, all stayed on course until the noon closing.

Leslie Merritt Bonner had the following memory to share. “As a new Children’s Librarian I was eager to lead my first storytime at Calvert Library with Miss Glenda. Smiling children and their adults arrived in anticipation of a wonderful new experience for all at 9:15 a.m. We sang “Itsy Bitsy Spider” then commenced reading and activities to keep everyone interested. But cell phones began to occasionally ring, and



***“... after 9-11 it seemed wonderfully appropriate to begin a job with a library in my own community.”***

**— Robyn Truslow**

..... we proceeded with our storytime fun and completed our final Family storytime for the day. My memorable first storytime presentation took place on September 11. When the library closed, I drove quickly to pick up my son from school, went home to prepare for emergency, and wondered what kind of future our children would have.”

there was a little adult chit-chat in the back of the room that only increased during the next class. Finally, in the middle of the class a grandmother who had been on the phone jumped up and announced “I have to go! America is under attack.” Not knowing what she was talking about,

Robyn Truslow states, “I was working in DC on September 11 but I had already interviewed, been offered, and accepted my position at Calvert Library and was just finishing out my two weeks notice. I had been working at a nonprofit whose mission was really shut down because of the atmosphere after 9-11 and it seemed wonderfully appropriate and empowering to begin a job with a library in my own community. To me, libraries have always represented the ideals of pursuit of knowledge and Constitutional freedoms. Calvert Library came to be known to me as a place for community involvement and action, exactly the type of place to be in positive response to terrorist activities designed to threaten and frighten American citizens into disengagement.”

Pamela Perrygo was living in Alexandria at the time and could see the fire at the Pentagon from the window of her home.

The Calvert Library staff is a wonderful group of people who provide excellent customer service to the community they serve. The also can be observed helping each other, being kind to each other and supporting each other. They are definitely the library’s greatest asset!



## *Pat Hofmann, Director*

**L**eadings Calvert Library during this decade of growth was director Patricia Hofmann. Kip Hine, President of the Board of Library Trustees describes Pat as one of the most positive people that he's ever met, as an instinctive leader and dedicated to her profession. Pat almost wasn't a librarian. Her original plan was to be a French teacher. She received her Bachelor's Degree in French from the State University of New York at Albany. She had the opportunity to spend her senior year studying in Nice, France where she completed her degree. She returned to the United States no longer interested in teaching as a career so she went to graduate school to be a librarian. She earned her master's degree at State University of New York at Albany in the School of Library and Information Science.



Pat initially believed that she would be an academic librarian as she did not see herself as outgoing enough to work in a public library. Pat's first professional position was as a special librarian in an engineering firm. She then married and moved to Pennsylvania where she was appointed as the director of the Mill Memorial Library in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Pat found that she had a passion for the job. Working with the public and in the public library setting was in her blood and her personality was indeed suited to this work. During her tenure, she introduced adult programming, established a Friends Group and weeded the entire collection of outdated and unused materials.

Pat then moved with her family to Maryland in June of 1985. In July Pat read an advertisement for a reference librarian at the Calvert Library. Her first thought was, "they must know that I have just moved here" and so applied.

It was meant to be. Twenty three years ago, in August of 1985, Pat started work at Calvert Library as the Reference Supervisor. At that time, some of her duties included answering reference questions, selecting non-fiction materials, writing a weekly column for the Calvert Independent and coordinating reference service for the county. Her customer service skills were obvious to her co-workers immediately. In February of 1988, she was appointed the Branch Chief of Prince Frederick and her outstanding leadership skills were put to immediate use.

For the first 36 years of the library's history, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's, were led by one director. In January of 1990, Pat was named the Assistant Director for Calvert Library working with then director, Kitty Hurrey. It was decided in 1995 that the three counties would no longer have one director over all but that each county would have its own director. In July of 1995 with 10 years of service to Calvert Library and to the Calvert community, Pat was selected to be Calvert's first Director. Her passion for library work, her love of Calvert County and her commitment to serving customers flourished. The Board of Library Trustees describe Pat's performance level in the execution of her responsibilities as outstanding and her insistence on professionalism, led by personal example, as notable.

The Calvert Library Prince Frederick building is a major accomplishment in Pat's career and she is very proud of this achievement. When asked, though, Pat will say that she is most proud of the library staff. Pat credits the enthusiastic, knowledgeable and professional staff for the community using the library and participating in library programs. "The library doesn't offer only ten products; it offers thousands of products. On any given day librarians are going to find what a customer wants or needs."

Trudy Mihalcik, Branch Manager at the Southern Branch Library states, "I think that one of Pat's strengths and major contributions to our library is her support of training, training, and more training for all staff! Each person is encouraged to go beyond their level and to grow and expand their skills." Pat states that the staff is well trained. The library grows leaders through training. Learning Libraries training provides staff with the tools to create change models for service and Leading From Any Position training encourages staff to create service oriented projects. These two training opportunities are provided by the Division of Library Development and Services.

All staff value Pat's organizational skills and credit the library's success on that organization. Pat smiles as she says "a director must be organized in order to supervise 55 people and keep four locations operating efficiently. The staff needs to know what and when things are going to happen so that they can do their jobs well. No one works alone at the Calvert Library. Each person is part of a team. Planning is done one year in advance and each year our plan is fine tuned and improved. Each supervisor has their "to do" list for the coming year. You take one step at a time."

Pat's coordinators and supervisors appreciate her being there when they need someone with more experience, authority or knowledge. They are grateful for her commitment to the staff, to the library and



to customer service. Pat meets with every new employee and adds a personal touch to their orientation. Change is constant in the library world but Pat keeps the staff informed and involved in the process so that they are prepared. As the library moves forward Pat keeps things on a pace that never overwhelms. Marcia Hammett, Branch Manager at Prince Frederick, admires Pat for her leadership during the planning and construction of the new library. "Pat worked longer hours and learned as much as possible so that she was able to make informed decisions" she said.



***"Each person is encouraged to go beyond their level and to grow and expand their skills."***

**— Trudy Mihalcik**



most enjoy. When the library is represented at outside community events, staff can select where they would be most effective and which they would enjoy the most. Staff knows that they are valued because they are allowed to contribute. They can develop their ideas for better service, create displays to showcase library materials, recommend ideas for programming and shine in a variety of ways.

Pat describes the library as a person's third place. In explanation she says, "The first place is your home, the second place is your work and the third is the place where you like to spend time."

Funding for Calvert Library by the County Commissioners has steadily increased during this ten year period. Receiving funds allotted for the library and giving them to the public through services and materials enables Pat to achieve her goal of making a better community and improving the quality of life for the citizens.

Pat keeps the library viable and on the cutting edge by attending training and conferences, keeping up with the world and reading widely from library journals to magazines such as "Wired". She asks people what they are interested in and what the trends are in our region. She listens to the ideas of her staff. She also listens to what the customers say and then finds a way to make things happen. Implementation of a good idea may take years, but she keeps it on the table. She prepares pilot projects to see what can be done at all four library locations. Future projects include first building a new Southern Branch, then Twin Beaches, then Fairview.

A gift and labor of love for the community created by Pat was for

the 350th celebration of Calvert County in 2004. Pat coordinated a monthly speaker series titled “Calvert History Comes to Life”. Some of the topics and speakers were African American Community Life with Wilson Parran, Growing up in Calvert County with father and son John C. Prouty and John A. Prouty, Women of Calvert County presented by Grace Mary Brady, Wildlife in Calvert County with Andy Brown, and Calvert County Potpourri with Aileen Hutchins. These and others were filmed and are available for checkout at all four branches of the library.

Pat is always looking for new methods of service and appreciates the creativity of her staff as we plan. For example, activity cubes were purchased to encourage brain development in young children. We have added Kids Just Want to Have Fun programs at each branch. Each location has Envisionware/PC Reservation and wireless access. Gaming, express checkout and puzzle making are also new services for our library.

Pat is an advocate for libraries at outside agencies and in the community. Not only has Pat been the director of Calvert Library but also a leader in statewide endeavors for libraries. In 2008, Pat served as President of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators. Pat currently chairs the Library Associate Training Institute oversight committee and is on the Library Services Advisory Committee (LSAC) for the State Library Resource Center. Other teams that she has served on are the Learning Libraries I and II Planning Committee.

In summation, Laura Holbrook, former Vice President of the Board of Library Trustees says, “It has been a real pleasure to work with Pat for the last 14 years. She is the consummate librarian able to handle what I call the “three P’s,” or people, programming, and politics with equanimity and poise. Let me give a few examples. In terms of *people*, Pat is able to make everyone from the oldest to the youngest Calvert County resident feel welcome and affirmed whether they are searching for a book, expressing a concern, or simply walking in our front door. In terms of *programming*, Pat has supported innovative initiatives ranging from the Teen Band night (in which our rafters were literally raised) to the introduction of Wii programming to our civil discourse series. In terms of *politics*, Pat has forged positive relationships with a wide-variety of area organizations ranging from the Optimists to the Calvert County Public Schools to the Board of County Commissioners. To do this effectively demands that she balance more details and balls in the air than a professional juggler while keeping her eye on the big picture. Pat has had more than her fair share of big picture goals to keep in mind such as growing the staff while keeping quality service paramount, expanding services and hours, and, her crowning achievement, overseeing the construction of a new library building in Prince Frederick. She is creating a rich legacy for our county.”

# *Current Staff*

Sarah Avant  
Pam Bell  
Leslie Bonner  
Barbara Boward  
Emily Bowen  
Linda Buckley  
Colleen Cano  
Molly Crumbley  
Melissa DeCesaris  
Allyson Evans  
Glenda Fields  
Dominique Gaetano  
Robert Gatton  
Mabel Gray  
Marcia Hammett  
Paulita Hills  
Pat Hofmann  
Susan Howes  
Rachel Hummel  
Sandy Hunting  
Beverly Izzi  
Maria Jolley  
Janice Kenney  
Jo-Ann Kery  
Joanie Kilmon  
Cynthia Lawrence  
Carolyn Lenz  
Jessica Lewis  
Connie Little  
Patti McConnell  
Robbie McGaughran  
Trudy Mihalcik  
Catherine Moffatt  
Cindy Parker  
Aaron Percich  
Mary Perdue  
Pamela Perrygo  
Joey Rawlings  
Brian Real  
Margie Rhoden

Joe Ruff  
Jen Seidel  
Lisa Slayton  
Gigi Songy  
Bonnie Spicknall  
Donnie Storms  
Jess Swain  
Lisa Tassa  
Michelle Taylor  
Barbara Thorp  
Kate Troutman  
Robyn Truslow  
Judith Upton  
Mary Whoolery  
Lisa Wieland

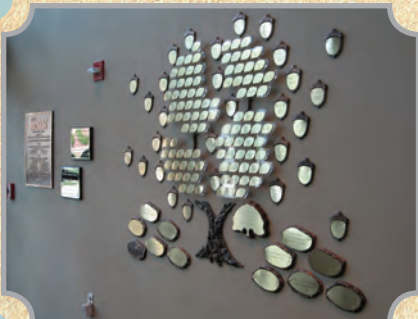
## ***Substitutes:***

Carol Bays  
Sheila Hejl  
Grace Jarboe  
Valerie Kirchman  
Mary Thulin  
Mildred Ward  
Shannon Woodard

## ***Retirements in this 10 year period included:***

Nancy Fissell (1999)  
Ollie Wallace (1999)  
Carol Bays (2001)  
Shirley McCarthy (2001)  
Martha Mackall (2002)  
Mildred Ward (2003)  
Grace Jarboe (2004)  
Kathie Eichfeld (2005)  
Sheila Hejl (2008)











# Teen Zones



*Calvert Library Prince Frederick*



*Fairview Branch*



*Southern Branch*



*Twin Beaches Branch*



## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CALVERT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wilson H. Parran, President

Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark, Vice President

Linda L. Kelley

Susan Shaw

Barbara A. Stinnett