

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOL. 10

THE DINNER BELL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



OUR MISSION:

TO ALLEVIATE FOOD INSECURITY THROUGHOUT ST. MARY'S COUNTY

OUR VISION:

A ST. MARY'S COUNTY FREE FROM HUNGER



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- *LEXINGTON PARK ELEMENTARY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOOD DRIVE*
- *HOLLYWOOD LION'S CLUB DONATION*
- *FSM BENEFIT AND FUNDRAISER – MARCH 7*

Good things are happening at Feed St. Mary's! Thanks to community support, food designed to help offset food insecurity in the county is being received at the Food Bank and designated for distribution to the local Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens. It's a new sign of the times!

LEXINGTON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

Feed St. Mary's just completed our first Food Drive and, fittingly, it was a partnership with the Lexington Park Elementary School's 5th Grade Leadership Academy. The central mission of the Leadership Academy is to become better people by improving their school and local community. After considering the community needs and groups working to address those needs, the students and their teacher leaders decided that they wanted to do something to support the food insecurity needs right here in St. Mary's County. When they learned what Feed St. Mary's is dedicated to doing, they were hooked! Led by school representatives Linda Ball, Sarah Brice, Lynda Kovach, and Robert Lloyd the food drive began in November. The students quickly began making grand plans as only 10 and 11 year-olds can make them! It became clear that these 30 students saw the need and were passionate about working together with Feed St. Mary's to help address this critical need right here in our own county. In December the teacher leaders met with FSM Board President Linda Lymas to make sure they were on the right track and to establish the process and timeline. Once the details were confirmed, LPES staff met with the students and turned them loose. They jumped in and planned a campaign to convince our students, staff, and families to support the food drive. They created posters, made announcements, visited classrooms, and collected and tallied contributions each day. And at the end of the drive – with over 1,800 items collected – they sorted the food, weeded out food that was expired, and boxed it all up so it could all be taken to the Feed St. Mary's new facility. The students, with the adults support, were the ones who kept the faith and made it all possible. Last year the Leadership Academy's major campaigns were supporting the Maryland Food Bank's Kids Helping Kids Food Drive and the local group, Sending Smiles, but thanks to a shared view of our community's need and potential, this year FSM was blessed to be the beneficiary of their leadership and hard work.



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HOLLYWOOD LION'S CLUB DONATION:



On February 12th, Linda Lymas gave an update to the Hollywood Lions Club on the status of Feed St. Mary's Food Bank. This was the second presentation to the organization. The members were very excited to hear that Feed St. Mary's has a location and equipped to conduct business. Lymas informed the group that FSM has plans to open for business in a few weeks. At the end of the presentation, Lion John Wenke presented a \$500.00 check as a donation to FSM. (Pictured from left to right: Lion John Wenke; Linda Lymas, FSM Board President and Lion Diane Vanderwest. Diane is also a member of the FSM team and a pantry leader at the Church of the Ascension. Not pictured: Photographer Walt Gardiner.)

Feed St. Mary's Food Bank Benefit

Join us for a wonderful evening in support of St. Mary's County's first food bank, "Feed St. Mary's." Please come for a festive evening of great food, beverage and music, but more importantly to support this very worthy cause: "To alleviate food insecurity throughout St. Mary's County." Many great community service opportunities await you, family and friends at Feed St. Mary's.

When: Saturday, March 7

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm: Buffet dinner, cash bar and musical entertainment.
8:00 pm to 10:30 pm: "One Trick Pony" for your listening & dancing pleasure.



Where: TAPHOUSE 1637
Behind Bollywood Masala
23418 Three Notch Road
California, MD 20619

For Reservations: Email Walt Gardiner at:
gardinerwalt@gmail.com , or
Text or Call Walt: 703-304-6264

Cost: \$35 per person for the buffet and the band.
Pay Online (\$1.75 processing fee added) at <https://feedstmarys.org>
Check to Lexington Park Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 212, Lexington Park, MD 20653
(Please Note "FSM Food Benefit in the Memo Line)

RSVP Deadline: March 1 or WHEN we max out the Taphouse 1637

Check Feed St. Mary's at: <https://feedstmarys.org>
Check Taphouse 1637 at: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/taphouse1637/events/>
Check One Trick Pony at: <https://www.facebook.com/1trikpony/>

Feed St. Mary's
Greatly Appreciates
its Operational Sponsors



Generous Citizens
of Southern Maryland

FEED ST. MARY'S, INC

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Club of Lexington Park



Patrons of the National Oyster
Festival in St. Mary's County