

County Connection

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2007



Officials look for water solutions

The Board of County Commissioners will host a water summit for county and municipal leaders this Saturday, Feb. 3.

The summit will provide county and municipal representatives an opportunity to discuss evolving state policies regarding water capacity plans and programs in an informal work session.

Speakers include nationally recognized water rights attorney Jesse J. Richardson and James M. Gerhart of the U.S.

Geological Survey.

Richardson will discuss the changing nature of water rights in Maryland and other states.

Gerhart will brief participants on activities relating to the Governor's Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources and prospects for water supply development in Central Maryland.

The format will allow for an open exchange between local governments and speakers.

The summit will be held between 9 a.m. and noon at Winters Mill High School's cafeteria at 560 Gorsuch Road, Westminster.

While the event is open to those having an interest in this topic, no public comment will be received.

Follow-up sessions to address ongoing issues of concern, including strategies to address long-term water supply planning options, will be scheduled at a later date.

Carroll County
*a great place to live
a great place to work
a great place to play*

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Heavy hauling

A large crane places equipment atop the County Office Building on January 27. A new energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning system is being installed as part of project to save the county \$5 million in energy costs.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Carroll County Public Library's new headquarters will be in the former New Windsor Middle School. Construction is expected to be completed in May of 2008.
- The Freedom Water Treatment Plant is being expanded so that it can treat 7 million gallons a day. Its current capacity is 3 million gallons a day. The project should be completed in November 2008.
- The stone arch structure on Twin Arch Road is being rehabilitated. Construction should occur between May and September of 2007.

Environmental Advisory Council seeks award nominees

The Environmental Advisory Council is seeking nominations for the 2007 Environmental Awareness Awards.

Recognition will be made in five areas: individual, institutional/educational, agricultural, business/industry, and student.



The awards are meant to honor those who have made a difference in instituting or forwarding environmental thought and action.

To nominate someone for one of these awards, call Ann Baugher in the Office of Environmental Compliance at 410-386-2756.

Deadline to submit a nominee is March 1.

Group to study feasibility of extending U.S. 29

A task force will examine the possibility of securing federal funds to extend U.S. Route 29 through Carroll County.

Task Force 29, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners last month, will look at whether existing state roads can be improved to connect Interstate 70 south of Sykesville with U.S. Route 15 near Emmitsburg. (See accompanying map.)

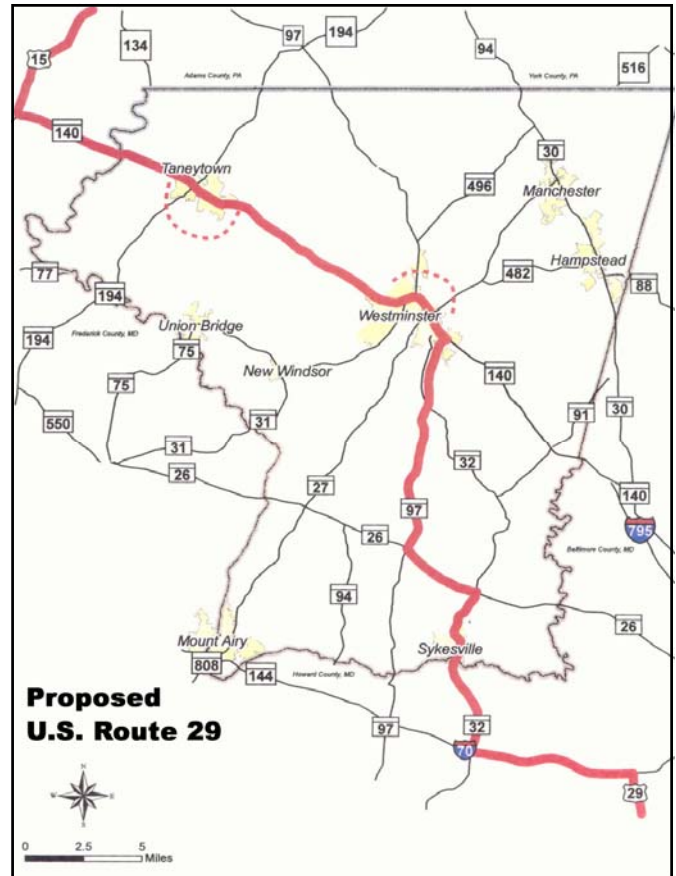
Carroll's only federal roadway is a small portion of Interstate 70 near Mount Airy. This affects both safety and economic development, said Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer, who proposed the idea.

Stretches of the proposed route are already being addressed through other smaller projects. For example, the county and state are working together to widen parts of Maryland Route 32. Portions of a Taneytown bypass have been constructed in recent years, as well.

Any federal road designation must be approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, which is composed of state and federal government transportation chiefs.

In order to receive federal funds, a jurisdiction must commit to paying 20 percent of the project's cost, Commissioner Zimmer said during a recent County Commissioners meeting. The task force will be asked to find out if state funds could be used to meet that requirement.

The committee includes Commissioner Zimmer; Neal Roop of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce; Sykesville Town Manager Matthew Candland, representing municipalities; Paige Sunderland of the Department of Economic Development; Steve Horn of the Department of Planning; and Cindy Parr and Amanda Boyd-Miller of the Commissioners' Office.



Sign up for email

If you would like to know when a new edition of Carroll County Government's monthly "County Connection" is posted online, sign up for our email notification service.

Each month, you will receive an email with a link to the latest edition. This keeps you from having to deal with large attachments that can clog up your inbox.

To subscribe to this free service, go to ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/pubinfo.

When you sign up, you'll also have the chance to subscribe to many other pages of information frequently updated on the county's web site.



Email your commissioners

President
Julia W. Gouge
jgouge@ccg.carr.org

Vice President
Dean L. Minnich
dminnich@ccg.carr.org

Secretary
Michael D. Zimmer
mzimmer@ccg.carr.org

Or reach all three at:
Commissioners@
ccg.carr.org

Not sure who to contact?

Send your thoughts to:
PublicComments@
ccg.carr.org
and they will be forwarded to the appropriate person or people

Volunteer to clear sidewalks

Volunteers are needed to remove snow and ice for isolated older adults throughout Carroll County.

A Clear Path, a program of the Bureau of Aging, matches volunteers with seniors in need of assistance. Those receiving help must be 60 or older; those with disabili-

ties are eligible at age 50.

Church youth groups, Scouts, or individual adults are invited to participate. An adult must supervise anyone younger than 18.

If you can volunteer, call the Bureau of Aging at 410-386-3800.



If you are wondering about the progress of a county construction project, you can now find that information online. Go to <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/projects> for the latest on buildings, parks, or roads projects.

Votes made, actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners during January

JANUARY 9

◆2007 Legislative Packet. Approved on separate 3-0 votes to request the following legislative items for consideration: authority to issue local bonds to fund public facilities; gateway renovations tax credit; abatement of nuisances regarding repeat offenders; institution of regulations and controls for a pretrial release program; and local regulation of pawnbrokers/secondhand precious metals dealers. On a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, also added a request by the Orphan's Court judges to increase their annual salaries from \$10,000 to \$17,000 and raise their travel expenses.

◆Agricultural land preservation easements. On a 3-0 vote, accepted the county's option to purchase two county-held land preservation easements: \$590,646 for 120.54 acres at 5009 Teeter Road in Taneytown owned by White Rose LLC, and \$1,117,200 for 134.96 acres located at 1812 Old Washington Road owned by Nelson and Janice Barnes.

◆Ag preservation installment purchase agreement. Agreed 3-0 to sign resolution and installment purchase agreement documents for 311.62 acres of land on Mayberry Road, owned by Jonathan H. and Doris M. Sherwood. The purchase price of the easement will be \$1,584,162.

◆Zoning maps. Agreed 3-0 to sign new zoning maps that reflect the annexation of the Weiker's Property, 900 Clearview Ave., into the Town of Hampstead, and the correction on an error made when Maps 13 and 14 were converted to digital format in 2005.

◆Transportation plan. Approved 3-0 the annual Transportation Plan for fiscal year 2008 that will support the continued operation of services provided by the Carroll Area Transit System (CATS) to senior citizens, the disabled population and the general public. The

plan also includes capital projects regarding CATS services: preventive maintenance on vehicles, two expansion vehicles, and renovations and equipment at the new CATS location. Total amount requested for the plan is \$487,076 from state and federal transportation authorities and \$289,012 in matching county funds.

◆Grant award. Voted 3-0 to accept \$3,134 in planning funds and \$3,143 in training funds from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Program through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. An in-kind match of \$1,569 is required.

◆Road improvements funds. In separate 3-0 votes, approved the transfer of funds for two projects: (1) Paving improvements for Hoff and Stem Roads, which were deferred until the force main is installed at the Francis Scott Key Pumping Station, requires transferring \$485,223.96 from fiscal year 2005 to fiscal year 2007; and (2) In order to close road improvements to South Pleasant Valley Road, \$130,736.81 in additional funds is required to be transferred from Public Works unallocated funds and from unused funds from Piney Ridge Parkway Subdivision Improvements.

◆YMCA quarterly report. Agreed 3-0 to accept and sign a required quarterly progress report on the Preschool Child Care Center at the Carroll Family YMCA, to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

◆Proposed road improvements. Agreed 3-0 to establish Task Force 29 to seek federal and state assistance in planning and constructing an extension of U.S. Route 29 from Howard County, cutting across Carroll County, and connecting with U.S. Route 15 in the vicinity of Emmitsburg.

◆Bid approvals. In separate 3-0 votes, approved the following bid awards: \$208,348.25 to Stam-baugh Inc. for Jasontown Road

improvements; \$31,793 to Security Equipment for the purchase of a new brush chipper to replace a 1992 chipper used by the Department of Public Works; and \$45,000 cooperative research and development agreement for analysis of Piney Run Reservoir between U.S. Army Corps and Carroll County Government.

◆Bond sale award. Signed a resolution awarding PNC Capital Markets with the re-funding of \$23,965 in bond debt. Re-funding the debt will save the county \$1,017,210 in interest over the life of the bonds.

JANUARY 18

◆Pension plan changes. Following a public hearing, voted 3-0 to approve amendments to Chapter 44 – Pensions and Retirement regarding credit for military service to conform to the U.S. Department of Labor's regulations, automatic cash-outs following an employee termination, and required minimum distributions.

◆Drug treatment facility. Approved 3-0 a request for additional funding of \$293,725 to cover contingency items for the project that were estimated incorrectly in the original bid. These items include encountering unsuitable soils, an emergency generator, a stormwater management feature, pavement, sprinklers in the attic space, changed floor coverings, and BGE charges.

◆Bid approvals. In two separate 3-0 votes: Unitec was awarded a contract to provide uniforms for various Carroll County Government employees, and a \$66,920 contract to Universal Filtration and Pumping Solutions to provide filter plate replacement for the Edward & Jones Filter Press.

◆Mount Airy Building Permit Process. Agreed 3-0 that Carroll County Bureau of Permits and Inspections will administer the building permit process within the Town of Mount Airy in both Carroll and Frederick counties. This will boost revenue for Car-

roll County and no additional staff is necessary.

JANUARY 23

◆Sight distance. Agreed 3-0 to amend Chapter 223 addressing vegetation and other obstructions that block sight distance for roads and driveways. The new ordinance prohibits property owners from maintaining or erecting a fence, wall, mailbox, hedge, tree, shrubbery, vines, weeds or plantings near any existing access point to a publicly maintained road that would obstruct motorists' view. The zoning administrator, in conjunction with the Bureau of Roads Operations, will determine whether an obstruction exists.

JANUARY 25

◆Purchase of property. Approved 3-0 the purchase of the 26.6-acre Eden Mill Corp. property from Woodhaven Building and Development for \$600,000. The property, located in Manchester, will be used for the Northeast Area High School.

◆Bid approvals. In two separate 3-0 votes, contracts were awarded to Jeff Barnes Chevrolet for the purchase of a new one-ton diesel dump truck for \$58,487; and to Granite House Inc. for \$124,902 to operate the Get Connected Resource Center, which will help families of children with intensive needs to access and coordinate available services that address their problems.

◆Loan request. On a 3-0 vote, gave preliminary approval of loan request of \$500,000 from Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a new rescue engine. In a separate 3-0 vote, agreed to sign a resolution that declares the county's intent to reimburse itself through bond proceeds.

JANUARY 30

◆Rezoning. Approved 2-0, with Commissioner Julia W. Gouge abstaining, a request from the owner of 44 Liberty Road,

Continued on page 4

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Unless noted otherwise, meetings will be held in the County Office Building at 225 North Center Street, Westminster. All times are subject to change. Check the County's Web site closer to the date of the meeting, or call 410-386-2400.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

10 a.m. Board Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 300A

1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9 a.m. Countywide Water Summit – Winters Mill High School Cafeteria, 560 Gorsuch Road

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:30 Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 300A

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

2:30 p.m. Zoning Administration Variance Hearings – Room 124C

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

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ccgovernment.carr.org
or watch CCG 24 TV!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

3:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 105

4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Granite House, 288 E Green St.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003

10 a.m. Commission on Aging, North Carroll Senior and Community Center, 2328 Hanover Pike, Greenmount

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 300A

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

County offices closed in observance of Presidents' Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive

9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W Main St. (A portion of the meeting will be closed for choosing master exam questions.)

6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 007

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

Votes

Continued from page 3

Sykesville, rezoning of a 3.8135-acre parcel of land from "A" Agriculture to "B-NR" Neighborhood Retail Business.

◆ Public hearings. Agreed 3-0 to proceed with public hearings on Small Cities Community Development Block Grants programs: expansion of Safe Haven shelter, and rehabilitation of Spencer Village Senior Apartments.

◆ Rural Legacy grants. Approved 3-0 two Rural Legacy grant applications for fiscal year 2008 for the Upper Patapsco Watershed and Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy Areas. The request for funding in the applications totals more than \$6 million, and is based on preserving more than 500 acres in each of the two Rural Legacy Areas.

Vision

Carroll County offers a safe environment in which all its residents may live, work, and play. The rural character of our county is preserved through measures that protect our natural and cultural resources, minimize future residential sprawl, and save farmland. Carroll County is enriched by sustainable agriculture and agribusiness as well as responsible, productive business and industry that offer family-wage jobs and employ the county's skilled workforce.

Mission statement

The mission of Carroll County Government is to provide excellent, efficient service to our residents in a courteous, friendly manner. We conduct business openly. We encourage each resident to play a role in keeping Carroll County a great place to live, to work, and to play.



CARROLL COUNTY

a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play