

County Connection

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APRIL 2007



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

Board to hash out budget details

After reviewing their staff's recommendations and listening to pleas from affected agencies, members of the Board of County Commissioners begin work this month on their proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

They will announce their proposal on Thursday, April 19, during a 10 a.m. press conference in the County Office Building in Westminster.

But that is not the end of the county's budget process.

Management and Budget Director Ted Zaleski will hold community meetings to explain the proposal and answer questions. Those will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 23, at the Mount Airy Senior Center; Tuesday, April 24, at the Taneytown Senior Center; and Thursday, April 26, in Room 003 of the County Office Building.

Then, on Wednesday, May 2, residents can speak of their support for or objection to projects considered in the budget. That public hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Scott Center at Carroll Community College.

After the public has weighed in, commissioners will determine what revisions they may make before adopting their final budget, tentatively slated for Tuesday, May 22.

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Training for emergencies

From left, Capt. Vincent Maas of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Dean Richardson of the Maryland State Police, and Lt. R. Clint Cromwell of the sheriff's office mark their strategy for responding to a mock incident at the County Office Building during an exercise on March 9. Numerous county, state and federal organizations participated.



Photo courtesy of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office

Task force to discuss combining police communications

If you need police quickly, you call 911. From the 911 center, however, your call may need to be re-routed to one of two other dispatch centers, depending on where you live or which agency you request.

On March 22, County Com-

missioners voted to form a task force that will study whether police communications should be consolidated.

Representatives from all seven law enforcement agencies in the county have been invited, as have the emergency services

association and the Office of Public Safety.

Together, they will examine the current system and consider if any changes should be made.

The first meeting will be later this month.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hashawha Environmental Center has been open for 30 years.
- More than 75,000 sixth-graders across Carroll County spend a week at outdoor school at Camp Hashawha to learn about natural resources and wildlife appreciation.
- Bear Branch Nature Center, located at Hashawha, opened in 1993 and includes a planetarium, children's discovery room, and an auditorium.
- The public can use five miles of hiking and biking trails, a wetlands area, pavilions and a tent camping area on approximately 300 acres at Hashawha.

Carroll Pathways website adds new features

Several new pages are available on the website for the Carroll County Comprehensive Plan, commonly known as the Pathways Plan.

Pages were added to accommodate new information and ideas as the county progresses through the remainder of the planning process.

A second row of page tabs appear at the top of the screen. It includes a page devoted to the six pathways. The Overall Broad Directions page contains the key directions given by the community and the broad concepts to achieve them. This information was shared at the first set of

Winter 2007 Grassroots Gatherings meetings, which were recently completed.

Pages are also available to add the significant Stepping Stones, which are the higher priority action items, and a "to do" list of sorts, which lists each of the individual Stepping Stones. Once it is drafted, the plan document will be available to download and review on the page identified for it.

Lastly, the topic papers and other studies specific to Carroll County and this process can be directly accessed now under the Planning Resources page.

As always, the Pathways website (www.carrollpathways.org) continues to include a calendar of all community meetings associated with this plan. Interested individuals can register to be on an e-mailing list at the Contact Us page. This list will be used to keep interested community members up to date on the release of the latest newsletters, community meeting information, and other information.

For more information, visit the site at www.carrollpathways.org, send an e-mail to pathways@cgc.carr.org, or call the Carroll County Bureau of Comprehensive Planning at 410-386-2145.

Votes made, actions taken by Board of County Commissioners in March

MARCH 1

◆ Bid approval. Voted 3-0 to award Octagon Services a contract for \$212,955 to provide and install two 30,000-gallon underground water storage tanks for fire protection. One tank is to be located on Cherrytown Road in Silver Run and the other will be on Kimberly Drive near Mount Airy.

◆ Bid approval. Agreed 3-0 to award a \$3,773,829 contract to GRC General Contracting to complete the interior renovation of the former Robert Moton Elementary School at 300 S. Center St. The renovated office space will be occupied by several departments of Carroll County Government.

◆ Water and Sewerage Master Plan. Voted 3-0 to forward the 2006 Carroll County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage to the Maryland Department of the Environment for final action before it becomes effective.

MARCH 8

◆ Public hearing. Agreed 3-0 to leave the record open for 10 days for public comment, after holding a public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 103,

Development and Subdivision of Land, regarding traffic impact studies. The amendments would grant the Planning and Zoning Commission authority to require traffic impact studies be performed by the county at the expense of the owner/developer during the subdivision process, and make some changes to the existing authority in the site plan process.

◆ Purchase of property. Approved 3-0 the option to purchase of 0.2211 acres of land from James R. and Brenda G. Gilbert for \$7,757. The land will be used for upgrades and improvements to Jasontown Road.

◆ Bid approval. Voted 3-0 to award Thomas, Bennett & Hunter Inc. a \$250,821 contract for the rehabilitation of a culvert at Twin Arch Road over the South Branch of the Patapsco River.

◆ Library carpet. Approved 3-0 the purchase of carpet tiles for the Northeast Library Branch in Greenmount from Interface Flor of Belair for \$31,395.73.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 3-0 a \$57,250 contract to Martel Laboratories for water laboratory analysis services related to public

water supplies.

◆ Letters of support. Agreed 3-0 to sign letters of support for the Agriculture Center and the Hoff Log Barn. The Agriculture Center is requesting additional state bond support for the completion of capital projects at the Danele Shipley Memorial Arena. The Log Barn Committee is applying for a Maryland Bond Bill of \$100,000 to help meet the cost of relocation and reconstruction of the Hoff Log Barn at the Farm Museum.

MARCH 13

◆ Route 26 improvements. Voted 3-0 to sign a memorandum of understanding with the State Highway Administration agreeing to contribute \$1 million toward project engineering for improvements to the Maryland Route 26 corridor in Freedom.

◆ Tipping fees. In a 2-1 vote (with Commissioner Julia Gouge opposed), approved an increase to solid waste tipping fees from \$58 to \$61 per ton, to take effect July 1, 2007.

◆ Vehicle purchases. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to issue two letters of intent to purchase vehicles using a current State of

Maryland contract with Hertrich Fleet Services Inc. By issuing letters of intent to purchase now, the County can lock into the State prices. The purchase of nine Jeep Liberty vehicles is estimated at \$160,344, a savings of approximately \$4,810. The purchase of six Ford Crown Victoria vehicles for use by the Sheriff's Office is estimated at \$128,634, a savings of approximately \$3,859.

MARCH 15

◆ Rental allowance program. On separate votes, approved 3-0 a grant application and agreed to accept a grant award for FY07 funding up to \$43,010, which will be used to operate the Rental Allowance Program (RAP). RAP provides a rent stipend and housing counseling for up to one year for approximately 20 households that are either low-income homeless families or families at-risk of becoming homeless. The application and award document are approved together to speed the process.

◆ Museum grant. Approved 3-0 a grant application from the Carroll County Farm Museum to the Maryland Historical Trust. If awarded, the grant will be used to

National County Government Week activities planned for late April

Carroll County will join counties across the United States later this month to mark National County Government Week.

Running from April 22-28, the event is designed to raise awareness about the roles and responsibilities of counties. This year's theme is "Protecting the Environment."

Each day during the work week, Carroll will focus on a different topic. On Monday, a look at environmental stewardship will include "green" construction and energy efficiency.

Tuesday's focus will be on protecting our land. Wednesday will center on water, and Thursday highlights projects that help air quality. On Friday, Carroll will discuss ways that everyone can help protect the environ-



ment, through programs such as recycling and composting.

Fourth-graders at some of the county's public schools will be visited in their classrooms by Carroll County Government employees, who will talk about how their jobs help the environment.

Anyone who comes into the County Office Building that week can stop by that day's display in the lobby and enter to win a gift basket.

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For the first time, this year's activities will also include a trivia contest on local radio station WTTR (AM 1470). Each week day, a different question will test listeners' knowledge of how the county works to protect the environment.

Throughout the week, cable television subscribers can find programming on Channel 24 showcasing Carroll's environmental efforts. Several of the shows can also be viewed online. Programs are available on the Video Library & Agendas page of the Carroll County Government web site, <http://ccgovernments.carr.org>.

For more information about National County Government Week activities in Carroll County, call Public Information Administrator Vivian Laxton at 410-386-2804.

March votes

purchase audio repeaters for 12 museum exhibits and will pay \$8,765 toward the cost. The Farm Museum Patron Endowment Fund will pay \$1,000. Farm Museum staff will install the devices.

◆ Air system. Agreed 3-0 to transfer funds for HVAC replacement for Robert Moton Elementary School in the amount of \$1,127,676. The transfer is necessary because the lowest bid came in significantly higher than anticipated. Funds will be transferred from the following projects: \$632,030 from North Carroll Middle School Renovations, \$100,000 from Parr's Ridge Elementary School, and \$395,656 from HVAC Improvement and Replacement.

MARCH 22

◆ Asphalt overlay of five roads. Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Julia Gouge opposed, to authorize contract to Valley Quarries Inc. for \$1,033,829.50 to complete asphalt overlay of five roads: Backwoods, Ebbvale, Hughes, Hoff and Stem roads.

◆ Therapy for at-risk youth. Agreed 3-0 to the pre-approval of a request from the Local Man-

agement Board for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant that would provide group therapy and psychiatric services for youth committed to the Department of Justice or who are at-risk for entering the DJS system.

◆ Substance abuse outpatient treatment. Commissioner Michael Zimmer's motion failed for lack of a second regarding the pre-approval of a request from the Carroll County Health Department for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. The program would have enabled the Bureau of Addictions to provide intensive outpatient treatment for 60+ patients per year. The anticipated cost of the project was \$169,261, including a 25 percent County match of \$42,315. Commissioners requested more information and follow up.

◆ Community Partnership Plan. Approved 3-0 the Local Management Board's community partnership plan to be submitted to the Governor's Office for Children. Requesting \$648,288 from the state; \$298,288 for two currently funded programs (Youth Strategies Initiative-Violence Assessments and the New Windsor Middle After-School Program), and \$350,000 for new programs (Parents as Teachers

Home Visitation, Respite Care Fund, a part-time Spanish-speaking cultural navigator, and Reducing Availability of Alcohol to Minors).

MARCH 29

◆ Construction codes. Decided to keep the record open for 10 days on proposed changes to the county's construction code.

◆ Park fees. Voted 3-0 to adopt an updated fee schedule for three county park facilities. Fees were last raised four years ago at Piney Run and Hashawha, and five years ago at the Sports Complex. New rates take effect April 1, 2007, for Piney Run and Hashawha, and Jan. 1, 2008, at the Sports Complex.

◆ Walk-in refrigeration unit. On a 3-0 vote, transferred \$104,000 from a reserve for contingency to buy a new walk-in refrigeration unit for the Detention Center.

◆ Road repairs. Approved 3-0 to transfer \$203,500 from fiscal year 2006 to fiscal year 2007 to pay for road overlays in neighborhoods, since bids came in higher than anticipated and the cost of asphalt is escalating.

◆ Cape Horn Park. Voted 3-0 to spend \$27,500 to repair a multi-purpose playing field at Cape

Horn Park.

◆ Pavement improvements. On a 3-0 vote, awarded a bid for \$1.46 million to C.J. Miller of Hampstead for improvements to 20 subdivision roads. The more than 5 miles of roads are in Chazadale North, Walnut Ridge, and Autumn Ridge neighborhoods.

◆ Dump trucks. Voted 3-0 to buy two new 10-ton dump trucks from Bare Truck Center of Westminster for \$245,958. They replace a 1989 and a 1990 model truck.

◆ Dump truck. Voted 3-0 to buy a third dump truck, with different features, from Bare Truck Center of Westminster for \$124,079. It replaces a 1986 model truck.

◆ Consolidation of police communications. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter forming a task force to examine consolidation of police communications, and to approve the group's charge.

◆ Tenant housing. On a 3-0 vote, agreed to take to public hearing a proposal to allow detached accessory dwelling units on land in agricultural preservation easement. Construction and location of a dwelling would need the approval of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

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.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

6:30 p.m. Public meeting on economic impact of Carroll County Regional Airport – Scott Center, Carroll Community College, 1601 Washington Road

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

10:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 300A
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners to hear protest under the county procurement process, filed by Carroll Area Transit System – Room 300A
6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

County offices closed in observance of Good Friday.

MONDAY, APRIL 9

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners work session to develop proposed budget – Room 300A
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Room 153, Carroll County Health Department, 290 S Center St., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners work session to develop proposed budget – Room 300A
10 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

More county news at
ccgovernment.carr.org
or watch CCG 24 TV!

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

8 a.m. Plumbing Advisory Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W Main St., Westminster
8 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 300A
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
1 p.m. Board of County Commissioners work session to develop proposed budget – Room 300A

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with commissioners – Room 300A
10 a.m. Unveiling of FY08 proposed budget – Room 003
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
3 p.m. Board of County Commissioners quarterly meeting with Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association – 300A

MONDAY, APRIL 23

1 p.m. Joint meeting of Carroll and Frederick County Commissioners with Mount Airy Mayor and Council – Mount Airy Town Hall, 110 S. Main St.
7 p.m. Community meeting on budget – Mount Airy Senior Center's dining room, 703 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
7 p.m. Community meeting on budget – Taneytown Senior Center multi-purpose room, 220 Roberts Mill Road, Taneytown

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

1 p.m. Joint meeting of Board of Education and County Commissioners – Room 300A

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Roundtable discussion – Room 300A
12:30 p.m. Electrical Board and Electrical Master Exam (a portion of meeting will be closed for administering & grading of exam) – Room 124C
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
7 p.m. Community meeting on budget – Room 003

MONDAY, APRIL 30

9 a.m. Commissioners tour of Waste-to-Energy Facility in Lancaster, Pa., and Northern Landfill in Westminster, 1400 Baltimore Blvd.
6 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

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.



Email your commissioners

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org

Not sure who to contact?

Email PublicComments@ccg.carr.org

CARROLL COUNTY

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