

County Connection

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MAY 2007



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

Residents get time to speak on budget

People can comment on the county's proposed \$325 million operating budget at a public hearing on Wednesday, May 2.

The public hearing begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Scott Center in Carroll Community College.

In addition to the fiscal year 2008 operating budget, residents can comment on the six-year Community Investment Plan and any of seven smaller enterprise funds.

Commissioners proposed a new high school in the northeast part of the county, a fine arts addition to South Carroll High School, and renovations toward closing open-space classrooms.



Photo by the Office of Public Information

Arbor Day planting

County Commissioners Dean L. Minnich (left) and Michael D. Zimmer toss dirt onto a red crimson maple tree during an Arbor Day ceremony outside the County Office Building last month. Maryland celebrates Arbor Day on the first Wednesday of April, earlier than the national holiday on April 27.

General Assembly passes bills sought by Carroll

Carroll County fared well in the 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly. All legislation that was introduced by Carroll's delegation was passed into law.

The Board of County Commissioners had requested two pieces of legislation and supported several allied agencies' proposals.

County officials now have the authority to establish a tax credit to property owners

in communities that serve as gateways into Carroll. Details of such a program still must be developed.

The second county item was the annual bill authorizing the sale of bonds. Bonds are ways to finance major projects — such as new schools — so payments can be spread over several years. Commissioners can issue up to \$80 million in bonds for the upcoming fiscal year,

which begins July 1.

Other bills of interest to Carroll residents that passed the General Assembly this year include one to allow alcohol sales starting at 11 a.m. on Sundays, another that set a quota to determine when new liquor licenses can be issued in the county, and one that aids regional law enforcement in tracking stolen items that have been pawned.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Environment	2
Award winners	2
Votes	3
Upcoming meetings	4

DID YOU KNOW?

- *The United States is the No. 1 trash-producing country in the world. It is home to 5 percent of Earth's people and produces 40 percent of the world's trash.*
- *Starting July 1, residents can put all their recyclable materials in one bin for collection.*
- *Yard waste heading to the Northern Landfill needs to be placed in paper, or Kraft, bags. Beginning July 1, plastic bags will no longer be accepted.*

County touts environmental protection efforts

Fourth-graders got special classroom visitors. Radio listeners competed in a weeklong trivia contest. Eye-catching displays taught people about special county projects. And county government employees launched a pilot recycling program.

The activities were all part of National County Government Week, which ran from April 22 through 28. Across the nation, counties emphasized this year's theme, protecting the environment.



Carroll also took the opportunity to recognize individuals and businesses within the county who do their part for the environment, handing out five

Environmental Awareness Awards during the week.

The county highlighted a different topic each day during the work week. On Monday, the focus was on the government being a good steward. Tuesday's theme was Our Land. Wednesday looked at Our Water, and Thursday examined Our Air. Events wrapped up on Friday with a look at how protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility.

County employees visited five elementary schools to talk to fourth-graders. A total of 560 students from Linton Springs, Mount Airy, Mechanicsville, Spring Garden and Carrolltowne elementary schools learned about how Carroll County Government helps the environment.

Some students learned about "green" construction. Others heard about why the county requires that trees be planted when new construction occurs. Recycling and water conservation also were discussed.

As part of the week's activities, employees began a program called single-stream recycling. With single-stream recycling, all recyclable materials can be placed in the same bin. No sorting is needed.

Single-stream recycling will be available to all county residents beginning July 1. At the same time, the landfill will stop accepting yard waste in plastic bags. Instead, yard waste can be dropped off in large paper bags, called Kraft bags, or brought in plastic but removed from the bags before leaving the landfill. For details, call 410-386-2035.



Photo by the Office of Public Information

Environmental Awareness Award winners (from left) Steve Heacock, Dan Andrews, Bradley Beall, and Nona Schwartzbeck pose with their plaques. Not present was a representative of the Carroll County Times, which won in the business category.

Commissioners, EAC honor land stewards with 5 Environmental Awareness Awards

Four people and one business were recognized on April 24 for their work to protect the environment.

The Board of County Commissioners and its Environmental Advisory Council presented the 2007 Environmental Awareness Awards during National County Government Week to coincide with the theme, "Protecting the Environment."

Winners and the categories in which they won were: Dan Andrews, individual; Steve Heacock, educational; Peace and Plenty Farm, agricultural; Carroll County Times, business; and Bradley Beall, student.

Andrews, of Westminster, serves as vice chairman of the Catoctin Sierra Club and is an avid environmentalist who works to inform leaders and citizens about issues as they relate to climate change and energy conservation. He has attended classes at the Green Building Institute and is placing solar energy panels on the roof of his home.

As principal at Carroll County's Outdoor

School, Heacock oversees and develops curriculum for the outdoor school program that gives thousands of Carroll County sixth graders a week long, hands-on environmental experience

Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck own Peace and Plenty Farm, with 180 head of registered Holsteins and more than 1,500 acres of land. The farm uses two waste storage structures, spring developments, watering facilities and multiple grassed waterways. The waterways improve resource concerns and create wildlife habitats.

The *Carroll County Times* was nominated for its coverage of water, solid waste, MTBEs, global warming and a host of environmental issues.

Bradley, 17, is a senior at Francis Scott Key High School. He operates a small lawn service business using environmentally safe products. His love of nature and his desire to protect the environment make him conscientious in his approach to the work he does.

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

APRIL 3

◆ YMCA quarterly report. Agreed 3-0 to accept and sign a required quarterly progress report on the childcare center at the Carroll Family YMCA.

◆ Northern Landfill inspection services. Voted 3-0 to amend the amount of the contract with GeoSyntec Consultants from \$113,174 to \$182,811. The \$69,637 increase is because the project will require an additional three months to complete due to weather delays, and because two inspectors were needed while phases of construction proceeded at the same time.

◆ Drug treatment center. Authorized 3-0 a purchase order for \$106,154.74 with Maryland Correctional Enterprises to supply furniture and equipment for the Carroll County Drug Treatment Center. Because the project is partly funded by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the State Board of Public Works requires that Maryland Correctional Enterprises be the primary vendor.

◆ Bid approvals. On separate 3-0 votes awarded the following contracts: 1) \$2,724,794 to C.J. Miller for hot mix asphalt overlay of nine roads – Bartholow, Freter, Gaither, Hollingsworth, Klees Mill, Linton, London Bridge and Louisville roads, and Monroe Avenue; 2) \$199,979 to Plummer Bros. Construction Co. to replace Warfieldsburg Road Bridge over Little Morgan Run.

◆ Recreation and parks projects. Approved 3-0 total funding of \$63,980.18 for the following self-help projects: \$3,060.75 to replace fencing and posts on equestrian rings at the Equestrian Center; \$15,000 for the installation of new play equipment at Charles Carroll Elementary; \$523.46 for mobile special needs play units to be used by the Cloud Dancers on visits to Freedom area schools; \$1,177.50 for new stone dust on all softball/baseball fields at Freedom Park; \$15,525 for the construction of a new greenhouse for the Wetlands Classroom at Hashawha; \$2,110.50 for the purchase of a new 10-by-16-foot storage shed for Hampstead Elementary field A; \$1,394.59 for a batting tunnel for North Carroll High School softball field; \$534.25 for a message board/kiosk at New Windsor Middle fields; \$2,030.75 for rugby goal posts for New Windsor Middle lower field; \$7,623.38 for a balance beam and other gymnastic safety equipment for the Carroll Gymnastics

Center in rental space at Four Seasons Sports Complex; and \$15,000 for installation of new play equipment at Westminster Elementary.

APRIL 5

◆ Public hearing. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments to the Environmental Ordinances and Manuals, including Chapter 114, Floodplain Management; Chapter 115, Forest Conservation; Chapter 134, Landscape Enhancement of Development; Chapter 191, Stormwater Management; and Chapter 218, Water Resource Management.

◆ Zoning map change. Commissioners Dean L. Minnich and Michael D. Zimmer signed County Zoning Map 68 to reflect a zoning change for 3.8135 acres of land located on the north side of MD 26. After a public hearing on Jan. 18, the property was authorized to be rezoned from Agriculture to Business Neighborhood Retail on Jan. 30.

APRIL 11

The following items were voted on, in addition to the recommended budget, to be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget. Expenses are divided between ongoing and one-time costs:

◆ Access Carroll's request for additional funding toward operating expenses. \$43,925 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Circuit Court's request for increase in bailiff salary from \$13.53 to \$15.87 per hour, plus a 2 percent cost of living adjustment. \$60,530 ongoing. Gouge and Minnich opposed, and Zimmer voted to fund half of the requested increase in hourly wages.

◆ Request for a coordinator position for the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. \$23,175 ongoing. Opposed 2-1, with Minnich voting to approve.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request to replace current phone system. \$10,000 one-time. Approved 2-1, with Minnich opposed.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for a part-time counselor position, including salary, benefits and related expenses. \$26,235 ongoing, \$3,200 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for an administrative assistant position, including salary, benefits and related expenses. \$25,010 ongoing, \$3,200

one-time. Opposed 2-1, with Minnich voting to approve.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for additional funding to help with operating expenses. \$10,100 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Economic Development/Business Employment Resource Center's request for increased funding for advertising and marketing. \$4,000 ongoing. Minnich and Zimmer opposed; Gouge voted to fund half of the amount requested.

◆ Sheriff's Office's request for a new pay plan for all of Sheriff's Services and Detention Center staff. \$330,000 ongoing. Gouge and Minnich opposed; Zimmer voted to fund half of the amount requested.

◆ Sheriff's request for an information and data systems coordinator to manage data bases. \$60,600 ongoing, \$750 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Sheriff's request for replacement of four vehicles. \$128,000 one-time. Voted 3-0 to approve funding for two new cars, for a total of \$64,000.

◆ Bureau of Engineering's request for a utilities engineer position. \$63,200 ongoing. Approved 3-0.

◆ Roads Operations' request for a new dump truck with a radio for new road equipment operator position. \$127,000 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Historic Preservation Commission's request for additional funding for a bus tour of historic places. \$600 ongoing. Approved 2-1, with Zimmer opposed.

◆ Historic Preservation Commission's request for additional funding for stipends for Historic Preservation Board members. \$5,200 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ CCVESA's request for additional funding for increases in operating expenses. \$235,000 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ EMS 24/7 request for additional funding of \$25,000 for each paid medical unit (15) to help supplement benefit package for these units. \$375,000 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Board of Education's request to fully fund its budget request, including an increase of \$5,270,840 in ongoing expenses. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Humane Society's request for funding to move kennel expansion project from FY11 to FY08 in the Community Improvement Plan. Opposed 2-1, with Gouge voting to approve.

◆ Chesapeake Field Institute's re-

quest for funding to help CFI continue its regional agricultural leadership role. \$10,000 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Maryland Historical Society's request for an additional \$500 to offset expenses for Carroll County students and teachers participating in MHS programming. \$500 ongoing. Opposed 2-1, with Gouge voting to approve.

◆ Baltimore Museum of Art's request for an additional \$3,200 to help with operating expenses to offset the free admission policy that began on Oct. 1, 2006. \$3,200 one-time. Opposed 2-1, with Gouge voting to approve.

APRIL 12

◆ Mental health treatment for youth. Agreed 2-1, with Gouge opposed, to approve a request from the Local Management Board for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention that would provide group therapy and psychiatric services for youth committed to the Department of Justice or who are at-risk for entering the DJJ system.

◆ Substance abuse outpatient treatment. Minnich's motion failed for lack of a second regarding the 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.

◆ Bid approvals. On separate 3-0 votes, awarded the following bids: 1) \$6,610.45 to Ederick Associates Inc. for ink jet cartridges, printer ribbons, toner cartridges, print heads and disks; 2) \$182,755 to Standard Equipment for one new track loader that will replace a 1988 track loader at the Northern Landfill; and 3) \$100,400.84 to Bare Truck Center for one five-ton dump truck to be used at the Maintenance Center.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Agreed 3-0 to issue a letter of intent to purchase vehicles using a state contract with Hertrich Fleet Services. By issuing a letter of intent now, the county can lock into 2007 state prices. The purchase of two Ford Crown Victoria vehicles for use by the Sheriff's Office is estimated at \$42,878, a savings of approximately \$1,286.

◆ CourtSmart contract. Voted 3-0 to renew annual maintenance contract

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.

TUESDAY, MAY 1

9:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

2:30 p.m. Zoning administration variance hearings – Room 124C
7:30 p.m. Public hearing on Fiscal Year 2008 budget – Scott Center, Carroll Community College, 1601 Washington Road, Westminster

THURSDAY, MAY 3

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with commissioners – Room 300A
10 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to various environmental ordinances, manuals and policies of the Carroll County Code – Room 300A
6:30 p.m. Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

TUESDAY, MAY 8

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
3 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
3 p.m. Circle of Caring Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, MAY 10

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 300A
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
1:30 p.m. Commissioners' work session on budget – Room 300A

MONDAY, MAY 14

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

TUESDAY, MAY 15

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003
9 a.m. Commissioners' work session on budget – Room 300A

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W Main St., Westminster

THURSDAY, MAY 17

8 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee – 700 Corporate Center Ct., Suite L, Westminster
9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with commissioners – Room 300A
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

MONDAY, MAY 21

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

TUESDAY, MAY 22

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners Budget Adoption – Room 300A

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

3 p.m. Circle of Caring Committee: Presentation of Proposals for Continuum of Care Homelessness Assistance Programs – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
7:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Room 003

THURSDAY, MAY 24

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 300A
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

MONDAY, MAY 28

County offices closed in observance of Memorial Day

TUESDAY, MAY 29

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

THURSDAY, MAY 31

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with commissioners – Room 300A
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A

with CourtSmart for support services for the system that records court proceedings onto compact disk for transcription, instant replay, and archiving. The cost for annual support is \$33,934.80.

APRIL 19

◆ Bid protest. Ruled 2-1, with Gouge opposed, to reaffirm the awarding of a medical transportation bid to Butler Medical. The bid process was handled by the county's Purchasing Bureau on behalf of the Health Department. Carroll Area Transit System officials protested.

◆ Housing annual plan. Approved 3-0 the submission of a streamlined version of Carroll County Bureau of Housing's 2007 Annual Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the signing of the Public Housing Agency Certifications of Compliance.

◆ Easement purchase. Agreed 3-0 to exercise option to purchase an Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy easement on property owned by Earl M. Rill and Ina C. Rill, containing 44,287 acres of land, located at 3137 Hampstead-Mexico Road, with a purchase price of

\$300,000. Grant money will be used to secure the easement.

◆ Construction codes. Voted 3-0 to adopt proposed changes to Chapter 97, Construction Codes.

◆ Admissions/amusement tax refund. Authorized 3-0 the refund of \$9,664.56 in admissions and amusement taxes paid by the Carroll County Gun Club.

◆ Water resource protection. Approved 3-0 the transfer of \$65,000 from FY07 Planning Administration operating budget for the Builders of the Bay program, and approved the award of a \$25,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the program. Builders of the Bay is estimated to cost \$115,000.

APRIL 24

◆ Ag preservation districts. Approved 2-0 (Minnich was absent) the elimination of agricultural preservation districts as a requirement for easement sale. Also agreed 2-0 to discontinue the county incentive program payments after FY09 easement sales.

◆ Transfer funds. Voted 2-0 to approve the transfer of \$26,538.95 to the Falls

Road Bridge project from the completed Freter and Stoney Lane bridge projects.

◆ Fee change. Agreed 2-0 to change the tax certification fee charged when a property changes hands to \$40 effective July 1, 2007.

◆ Volunteer emergency workers. Voted 2-0 to increase length of service award program payments to qualified volunteers.

APRIL 26

◆ Local Management Board. Approved 2-0 (Minnich was absent) to award a contract to Parents as Teachers National Center who will provide training sessions for developing certified Parents as Teachers that focus on child well-being. The \$30,000 training grant is from the Governor's Office of Children.

◆ Homeless management. Agreed 2-0 to extend the contract with Bowman Internet Systems to provide Community Service Point services for an additional three years in the amount of \$96,300. Community Service Point is a web-based software database used to record Homeless Management information as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

◆ Peer support program. Voted 2-0 to approve a project to train nursing home residents and staff to resolve problems within nursing homes. Grant funds of \$11,632 will come from Health Care Quality Account.

◆ Grant application. Approved 2-0 an application from Junction for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant for psychiatric services for chemically involved adolescents and young adults. Grant funds will be \$46,321 and require matching county funds of \$63,479.

◆ Drug Court grant. Voted 2-0 to approve a grant application for the Carroll County Drug Treatment Court for FY 2008.

◆ Recreation and Parks. Approved 2-0 transfer of unused funds to community self-help projects for future Recreation and Parks projects. These transfers will close the following self-help projects that were completed under budget: Shiloh Fields, North Carroll Middle fencing, and Mayeski Park, totaling \$8,506.

◆ Recreation and Parks. Approved 2-0 to transfer \$43,950 from the community self-help project to various new Recreation and Parks self-help projects.