

County Connection

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2008 county budget approved

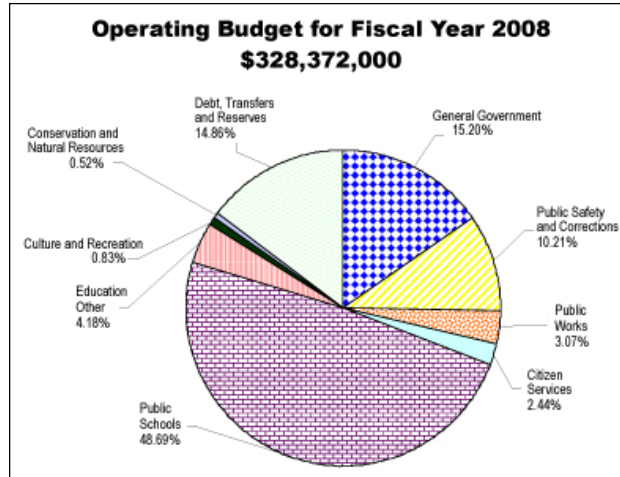
Carroll County residents will not see a change in their property tax rate in the upcoming budget year, under the fiscal plan approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 22.

The \$328.4 million general operating fund outlines spending over the next 12 months, beginning July 1.

Funding for Carroll County Public Schools is the biggest expense. Nearly half of all revenue will go to support the school system.

In addition to the general operating budget, the county has a capital fund for large projects such as new construction or road improvements. The fiscal year 2008 capital budget is a little more than \$187 million.

There are also several smaller funds. Five of these are known as enterprise



funds: water and sewer; solid waste; airport; firearms facility; and septage. They are largely self-supporting. For example, money collected from water and sewer customers pays for maintenance of those systems.

Carroll County Government also sets aside funding for its

pension trust fund, a fund for other post-employment benefits, and its length of service award program for longtime volunteers in the emergency services.

The adopted budget can be found online at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/budget>.

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Carroll's recreation councils had 43,288 participants during fiscal year 2006.
- Recreation and parks volunteers contributed 629,633 hours of service that same year.
- Rec councils raised and spent more than \$3.3 million in their efforts to provide programs to residents.
- The Carroll County Sports Complex attracted about 80,000 visitors to camps, tournaments, and league play at the facility in FY06.
- Piney Run Park hosted more than 127,000 visitors in FY06.

Board takes steps to create more affordable housing

The Board of County Commissioners recently approved two ordinance changes that will improve housing affordability in Carroll County.

The first of these changes allows housing on the second floor of buildings in planned business centers. Prior to this change, planned business centers were exclusively for commercial and office uses.

The residential units now permitted must be between

600 and 1,000 square feet. Housing units of this size are in short supply in the county. As a component of a planned business center, these residences will also be an easy walk from offices and retailers.

The second ordinance change permits farmers whose properties are in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program to build a tenant house on their property, even if their subdivision rights have been exhausted.

Prior to this change, only farmers with subdivision potential could build a second house on their property. Now all farmers participating in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program will have the option of providing housing for their employees on the property where they work.

In addition to creating housing opportunities, this ordinance change also furthers the Commissioners' goal of supporting the agriculture community.

New recycling guidelines allow you to mix it up

Starting July 1, you can put all of your recyclables in a single container. There's no need anymore to sort out your cans from paper and glass.

The "Mix It Up!" initiative is known as single-stream recycling.

Residents can recycle any of the following items:

- ◆ Plastic narrow-neck bottles (#1-7)
- ◆ Glass food and beverage containers
- ◆ Aluminum and bi-metal food and beverage containers
- ◆ Mixed paper (junk mail, envelopes, newspapers, computer papers, colored papers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, paperback and hardback books)
- ◆ Cereal/snack boxes—please remove inserts.
- ◆ Shoe boxes
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard

For information on the county's recycling program, call 410-386-2633. For details about set-out requirements, contact your waste service.



Remember, yard trimmings have to be separated from regular trash according to county ordinance. Starting July 1, place your yard trimmings in paper lawn bags and your trash in plastic bags.

Paper or plastic? When it comes to yard trimmings, pick paper

After you finish mowing or weeding, bring your yard trimmings to the landfill in style! Use paper lawn bags (Kraft bags), or leave your trimmings loose.

As of July 1, plastic bags can no longer be used. Plastic bags break equipment, create odors, and even affect the soil quality as they decompose.

If you leave your trimmings at the curb for pickup, make sure they are loose in a container or inside a paper bag.

You can buy paper lawn bags at local grocers, big box stores, or home improvement stores. Contact your local retailer for availability. Or check out a list of stores online at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/recycle>.

Airport plan outlines four options for future of facility

The Board of County Commissioners will decide this month whether to extend the Carroll County Regional Airport's runway, and if so, by how much.

Since the fall of 2004, consultant URS Corp. has worked to draft a revised master plan—the document that guides development of the airport for the next 20 years.

A technical advisory committee was charged with making recommendations. That committee, which included pilots, business owners, and residents who lived near the airport, held numerous public meetings through early 2006.

URS presented its draft of the master plan to the Board of County Commissioners in May 2007. It considered four options:

- ◆ Repair the current runway (known as the

no-build option), at an estimated cost of \$8.7 million. This would require a six-month closure of the runway.

- ◆ Extend the existing runway 300 feet (Alternative 1). This would cost \$42.8 million and require a seven-month closure of the runway.

- ◆ Relocate the runway 375 feet to the west (Alternative 2). This \$59.3 million option would require the County to buy property owned by the nonprofit group the Arc and an asphalt plant owned by C.J. Miller.

- ◆ Relocate the runway 250 feet west and 600 feet north (Alternative 3). This \$56 million option would require the purchase of the asphalt plant, but not the Arc facility.

Alternatives 2 and 3 would include a safety feature known as an instrument

landing system. The no-build option and Alternative 1 would not.

The Federal Aviation Administration would pay for 95 percent of the project, using revenues from airline ticket fees and taxes on fuel for aircraft. The remainder of the funding would be split evenly between Carroll County and the Maryland Aviation Administration. In both cases, the funds come from user fees, not property or income taxes.

A public hearing was held May 23 on the plan. Airport neighbors oppose any expansion, citing quality of life concerns. Pilots support upgrades because of increased safety.

If an expansion is approved, an environmental assessment would need to be completed.

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

MAY 1

◆ Airport master plan. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with the draft airport master plan that was prepared by United Research Services.

◆ Bid approvals. On separate 3-0 votes, awarded the following bids: \$105,971.75 to Wilson T. Ballard Co. for design services in the replacement of a bridge at Falls Road over Indian Run; \$112,042.55 to Kibler Construction Co. Inc. to perform improvements to the intersection of Marriottsville Road and Marriottsville Road No. 2.

MAY 3

◆ Environmental Code changes. Voted 3-0 to adopt changes 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.

◆ Purchase of property. Agreed 3-0 to exercise the county's option to purchase the Dobson Property at 704 Old Westminster Pike, Westminster, for \$265,000. The property is part of the Market Street Extended project that will allow traffic to cross Route 140 and continue onto Old Westminster Pike.

◆ Housing grant. Approved 3-0 an application for grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the Family Self Sufficiency Program. The program provides supportive services for participating Section 8 housing recipients to enable them to become economically self sufficient.

◆ Victims of Crime grant. Voted 3-0 to approve matching county funds of \$11,216.67 for the State's Attorney's Office Maryland Victims of Crime grant.

◆ Homeless services. On a 3-0 vote, approved applications for funding of the Fiscal Year 2007 Continuum of Care projects.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Authorized 3-0 the purchase of a 2007 Ford E350 cutaway utility van from Norris Ford through a state contract, at a cost of \$39,863.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Approved 3-0 the \$33,497.14 purchase of a skid loader from Security Equipment through a state contract. The vehicle will replace a 1990 model.

◆ Housing bond allocation. Voted 3-0 to reallocate \$5,033,600 of Carroll's bond allocation to the State Department of Housing and Community Development's Maryland Mortgage Program, which promotes home ownership.

MAY 10

◆ Grant application. Approved 3-0 an application by the Carroll County Youth Service Bureau for a Community Development Block Grant that will help to pay for a new 21,000-square-foot outpatient mental health facility that is projected to cost \$7.8 million.

◆ Waste stream study. Agreed 3-0 to move forward with a study of the county's waste stream that will examine the materials going into the landfill and the potential for additional recycling.

MAY 17

◆ Bid approval. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) to award a contract to Highland Turf Inc. for the removal and replacement of approximately 280 fire hydrants in the Freedom area, in the amount of \$1,680 per hydrant.

◆ Agricultural land preservation. Agreed 2-0 to accept the recommendations of the Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board. The recommendations were: A) to limit easement offers to 70 percent of the

appraised fair market value of the property; B) to commit an additional \$2.27 million in FY 2007 funds toward easement purchases through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation program; and C) to approve two offers for county-held easements totaling \$2.16 million.

◆ Emergency management grant. Approved 2-0 a \$63,469 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the Emergency Management Performance Program to strengthen emergency management capabilities. Required matching funds of \$66,469 will pay a portion of the salary and benefits of the emergency management coordinator and emergency management specialist.

◆ Tenant houses. Agreed 2-0 to adopt proposed amendments to Chapters 71, 103, and 223 that allow for the construction of tenant houses on properties with agricultural land preservation easements.

MAY 22

◆ Fiscal Year 2008 Budget. Voted 3-0 to adopt a balanced budget that includes \$328,372,000 in general operating costs.

◆ Property tax rate. Adopted 3-0 the 2008 property tax rate of \$1.048 per \$100 of assessed value, which is unchanged from the previous year.

◆ Hampstead annexation. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter to the Town of Hampstead for the annexation of 7.239 acres of land that includes 12 properties along Summit and Taylor streets, between Hillcrest Avenue and Upper Beckleysville Road, including a portion of Taylor Street and Upper Beckleysville Road. Groundwater in this area has become contaminated with MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), which has affected wells serving those homes. By annexing them into town, Hampstead can offer them public water service.

◆ Bridge inspections. Voted 3-0 to award STV Inc. with a \$47,891 contract to perform bridge condition inspections of 18 small structures.

◆ Internet routers. Approved 3-0 the purchase of Nortel routers and maintenance contracts from Pesidio Corp. for \$26,541. The routers provide the primary connection for the County and other agencies to the Carroll County Public Network and access to the Internet.

MAY 24

◆ Capital project grant. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) a Community Development Block Grant for the Carroll County Youth Service Bureau for that will help to pay for a \$7.9 million, 21,000-square-foot outpatient mental health facility.

◆ Juvenile intervention program. Voted 2-0 to approve an application for the second year of a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to operate the Adventure Diversion Program for juveniles who have violated court orders and are at risk of out-of-home placement. Matching funds will come from the state's Department of Juvenile Services.

MAY 31

◆ Domestic violence program. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich was absent) to approve an application for \$300,000 in grants from the Maryland Domestic Violence Program. No county funding is required for this grant.

◆ Water and sewer rates. Adopted, on a 2-0 vote, a resolution that changes the rates for water and sewer customers as of July 1.

◆ Sewer pumping station. Approved 2-0 to have Highland Turf Inc. install piping to allow a bypass of the aging Snowdens Run pumping station, should the corroding pipes fail.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

2:30 p.m. Zoning administration variance hearings – Room 124C

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 300A
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
2 p.m. Circle of Caring Homeless Board – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive
6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

MONDAY, JUNE 11

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
3 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Room 153, Carroll County Health Department, 290 S. Center St., Westminster

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging

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Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board - DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster
8:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 113

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

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

MONDAY, JUNE 25

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

9:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
7 p.m. Commissioners' quarterly meeting with mayors – Room 003
7:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Bear Branch Nature Center, 300 John Owings Road, Westminster

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with commissioners – Room 300A
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 300A
2 p.m. Circle of Caring Homeless Board – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive

Email your commissioners

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Not sure who to contact?

Email PublicComments@ccg.carr.org

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If you would prefer a printed copy of this newsletter, they are available at any of the county's library branches and the senior and community centers. Mailed copies can be obtained by calling Public Information Administrator Vivian Laxton at 410-386-2804.

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