

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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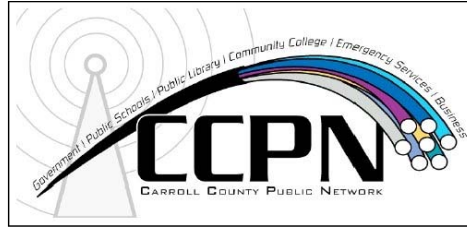
Carroll County
*a great place to live
a great place to work
a great place to play*

Network to connect agencies

Historically, rural areas of Maryland have been underserved by broadband providers, or have been over-charged for Internet and data service.

A recent study by the Carroll Technology Council found that Carroll County is no different in terms of broadband service availability than the Eastern Shore and southern portions of the state.

In response to this lack of broadband service, several



agencies in Carroll joined together to create a group known as the Carroll County Public Network.

Those four agencies — Carroll County Government, Carroll County Public Schools,

Carroll County Public Library, and Carroll Community College — partnered to put in place a high-speed fiber backbone.

The fiber will provide reliable, high-speed

connections between these agencies as well as the towns, police and fire departments. It will also help to cut expenses, making long-distance telephone calls between Mount Airy schools and their central office obsolete.

Carroll 'green' initiative tapped as finalist in national award program

Carroll's recent efforts to improve energy efficiency and include "green" features in new construction has earned the county a spot among the nation's finalists for the 2007 Center for Sustainable Communities Awards Program.

Later this fall, the county will be notified if the Carroll County Performance Contract has won.

The Performance Contract is a multi-faceted initiative. Part of it involves replacing old equipment with more efficient models.

It also includes the use of environmentally friendly features in new buildings, which saves taxpayers money while preserving Carroll County's image as both clean and green.

The project has been a partnership with Carroll Commu-



A small pole marks the location of a geothermal test well for the Finksburg library. The project is one part of Carroll's "green" efforts.

nity College, Carroll County Public Library, the Health Department in Carroll County, and contractor Johnson Controls of Sparks, Md.

The county's 15-year con-

tract with Johnson Controls guarantees annual savings of nearly \$494,000 through reduced operating and maintenance costs and lower utility bills.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2006, Carroll County Government received approximately \$7.5 million in grants.
- Of the 70 grants for which the county applied, 65 were awarded and one is still pending.
- The Grants Office helps county agencies, municipalities and nonprofit organizations to find grant opportunities, write applications, edit and fact-check.
- For information on how to apply for grants, check out the Grants Office web page at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/grants>.

Office of Public Information

New space makes room for 5 commissioners

In anticipation of a five-member Board of County Commissioners in 2010, a new meeting room has been created in the County Office Building.

Daytime meetings of the Board will take place in Room 311. Commissioners met in the room for the first time on June 28.

Visitors who wish to attend a public meeting should take the elevator to the third floor. After exiting the elevator, turn right and walk to the T in the hallway. Go to the left. The entrance is the first door on the right.

The new space was designed to give the public a better view of proceedings. In the previous room, people had to sit along the walls and competed for the few chairs that were not at the presenter's table. Now a small dais makes the Board visible to everyone



Office of Public Information

Room 311 of the County Office Building is better suited for the public to follow proceedings than the previous meeting room for the Board of County Commissioners.

in the room. Seats are comfortably lined up so everyone can watch.

Screens have been mounted on the side walls so maps and charts will be visible.

It also should be easier to hear what is being said. New room arrangements and a more efficient heating and cooling system allow voices to carry farther. This should also help viewers of CCG24 and the web streaming.

The new meeting room was created out of offices that had been used by the Bureau of Purchasing and the Office for Performance Auditing. Those employees were moved into spaces carved out of other departments.

The former meeting space, Room 300A, eventually will be made into offices for two additional commissioners. In 2004, residents voted to increase the board

from three to five commissioners. The change is expected to take place with the next county election, in 2010, once district lines have been established by the Maryland General Assembly.

Carroll County Regional Airport's 20-year master plan approved

Citing safety concerns and a need to boost Carroll County's industrial tax base, the Board of County Commissioners voted June 12 to accept the newly revised 20-year master plan for the Carroll County Regional Airport.

The plan calls for a realigned and lengthened runway and additional privately funded hangars.

Before work begins to move the runway 250 feet west and 600 feet north, an environmental assessment will be conducted. The study is expected to take more than a year.

After the results of the environmental study are known, the Board of County Commissioners will vote again on whether to proceed with extending the runway. Construction could begin in 2011. A new runway would be operational sometime in 2013. It is expected to create "significant economic and fiscal returns" for the county, according to a study by the Sage Policy Group.



Office of Public Information

Small planes are tied down at Carroll County Regional Airport/Jack B. Poage Field in West-

The master plan was drafted by consultant URS Corp., with input from a technical advisory group. The group also included representatives of the surrounding residential areas.

The group met in 2005 and 2006. Earlier this spring, URS presented a draft of the master plan to the Board of County Com-

missioners. That presentation is available online at <http://ccgoverment.carr.org/ccg/airport>. Findings of the Sage Policy Group can also be found at the same web address.

URS estimated the runway construction project would cost \$56 million in 2007 funds. Because work would not begin for several years, the capital budget puts the estimate at \$68.6 million to account for inflation. Land acquisition and site work would be additional.

The project will be paid for predominantly (95 percent) through the Federal Aviation Administration. The remaining 5 percent will be shared evenly between the Maryland Aviation Administration and revenue generated by the airport's users.

Carroll County Regional Airport/Jack B. Poage Field was named Airport of the Year by the Maryland Aviation Administration in 2005. The general aviation airport, with no commercial flights, is located off Md. Route 97 north of Westminster.

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

JUNE 7

◆ Grant application. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich was absent) to apply for a federal grant to establish an Aging and Disability Resource Center, also called Maryland Access Point, that would provide information and assistance in identifying and accessing appropriate services for individuals who need long-term care.

◆ Grant application. Approved 2-0 Continuum of Care applications from Human Services Programs requesting funding for various projects from the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide homeless services and assistance. Grants would require matching county funds in FY2008 of \$9,378, and in FY2009 of \$6,772.

◆ Grant application. Approved 2-0 a request from the Department of Planning to apply for funds from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a county-wide Water Resources Element. The request is in response to a law passed by the Maryland General Assembly, requiring that by Oct. 1, 2009, all local governments identify drinking water and other water resources needed for existing and future growth, and also identify suitable receiving waters and land areas for storm-water management and wastewater treatment. Grant amount requested is \$180,000, which would require a county match of \$120,000.

JUNE 12

◆ Airport master plan. On a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Michael L. Zimmer opposed, adopted alternative three of the airport master plan, which would extend the runway at Carroll County Regional Airport. After an environmental study, the Board of County Commissioners will vote on whether to proceed with the runway extension.

◆ Traffic impact studies. Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Michael

D. Zimmer opposed, to adopt amendments that allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to require traffic impact studies to be performed by the owner or the County at the expense of the owner in the subdivision and site plan process.

◆ Funds transfer. Approved 3-0 the transfer of funds in the amount of \$265,975.59 for roof replacement at Sykesville Middle School. Because bids for this project came in higher than expected, the transfer of funds will allow the Board of Education to proceed with awarding the contract.

◆ Business parks. Voted 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with a text amendment to the county's IR (Industrial Restricted) zone to incorporate uses to promote modern business park development.

JUNE 14

◆ Bid approvals. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer was absent) to award the following contracts: a) stormwater management and environmental compliance design and engineering services to be provided by URS, KCI and Carroll Land Services; b) \$395,860 to Carroll County Youth Service Bureau for Interagency Family Preservation to prevent the removal of a child from his or her home; c) \$30,940.16 for the purchase of carpet tiles for the Mount Airy Library from Interface Floor; d) \$97,913 to Hanover Building Systems for the construction of a vehicle maintenance building at the Northern Landfill; e) the Economic Development Department will piggyback on a county contract with Skyline Network Engineering in the amount of \$42,250 to will enhance broadband services to both citizens and businesses; and f) \$4,690,625 to Tech Contracting Co. for the construction of the Finksburg Branch Library.

◆ Agricultural land preservation. Granted approval 2-0 to purchase

an option for an agricultural land preservation easement on 75 acres of farm property belonging to Steven D. and Lori A. Harman located at 3341 Blacks Schoolhouse Road, Taneytown, in the amount of \$372,900.

◆ Health Services. Approved 2-0 an agreement with Carroll Occupational Health to provide occupational medical services to all county employees, including DOT and law enforcement physicals, immunizations, testing, and work-related injury treatment.

◆ Capital funds transfers. Voted 2-0 to approve the following budget transfers: a) the Safe Haven Expansion project faces additional expenses of up to \$46,500 due to ground water encountered during foundation excavation; b) \$62,038.80 in additional funds are needed for final construction items to complete the North Carroll Senior Center; c) the Freedom and Hampstead area sewer study funds will be combined into one and will not require additional funds; and d) in order to maintain individual costs for the Pine Knob Road and for the Piney Ridge Parkway Hydraulic Looping projects, funds will be transferred into two separate projects. This transfer does not require additional funds.

JUNE 21

◆ Grant award. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) to accept a \$10,000 grant award from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for the Long Term Care PEER Support program, which will be used to train nursing home residents and staff.

◆ Emergency Shelter Grant. Approved 2-0 an application from the Department of Citizen Services for \$50,000 in funds from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to be used for the operation of the Intact Family Shelter. The grant will require matching county funds of \$88,482, county

office space of \$5,000, and \$9,000 in matching funds from the City of Westminster; for a total of \$152,842.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 2-0 a \$390,383 contract to Gray & Son for improvements on sections of Bark Hill, Bethel, Marriottsville No. 1, Uniontown, and Twin Arch roads.

JUNE 28

◆ Paving. Voted 3-0 to award a \$440,524.50 contract to Bosley Construction for pavement reconstruction of Progress Way in Eldersburg. The contract reflects a savings of more than \$84,500 from what was budgeted.

◆ Inlet repair. Agreed 3-0 to award a \$56,670 contract to Thomas, Bennett & Hunter for the repair or replacement of concrete inlets. The contract reflects a savings of more than \$38,000 from what was budgeted.

◆ Truck replacement. On a 3-0 vote, agreed to purchase a new stake-body truck from Bare Truck Center for \$59,000. The vehicle will replace a 1985 flat-bed truck. The contract reflects a savings of \$36,000 from what was budgeted.

◆ Motor grader. Approved 3-0 the purchase of a new motor grader to replace a 1985 grader. The equipment will be bought through an existing Washington County bid, saving Carroll \$61,100 over the budgeted amount.

◆ Telephone switches. Voted 3-0 to award a \$34,010.58 contract to Verizon Select Services for maintenance and support of the county's telephone switches for one year.

◆ Watershed monitoring. With a 3-0 vote, agreed to hire the U.S. Geological Survey to coordinate regional efforts to monitor the Baltimore reservoirs and watershed. The project is a joint effort between Carroll County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City.

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, JULY 3

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Offices closed in observance of Independence Day

THURSDAY, JULY 5

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311
 1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
 6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

MONDAY, JULY 9

6:30 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – Picnic Pavilion, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster

TUESDAY, JULY 10

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
 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, JULY 11

10 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
 2:30 p.m. Zoning Administration Variance Hearings



– Room 124C
 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, JULY 12

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
 9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
 10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

TUESDAY, JULY 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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

8:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 113
 9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners (liquor board) – Room 003

THURSDAY, JULY 19

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311

1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
 3 p.m. Board of County Commissioners' quarterly meeting with Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association – Room 311

TUESDAY, JULY 24

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
 10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

7:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Room 003

THURSDAY, JULY 26

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
 9 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
 9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
 10 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning, to create "business parks" as a permitted use in industrial-restricted zones – Room 311
 10 a.m. (following public hearing) Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

MONDAY, JULY 30

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

TUESDAY, JULY 31

9:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
 10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

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 Email PublicComments@ccg.carr.org

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