



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

Work begins on Finksburg library

'Green construction' features to make building eco-friendly

After two and a half years gathering community input and creating a "green" design, officials will break ground at this Thursday, Aug. 2, for the new Finksburg branch of the Carroll County Public Library.

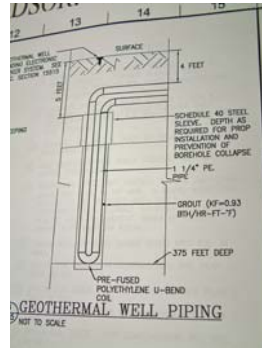
Most of the environmentally friendly features will be invisible to patrons. They include a solar water heater and geothermal heating and cooling system.

The idea for "green" features was suggested during community meetings and supported by the Board of County Commissioners.

Such sustainable design features helped Carroll County be named a finalist in the national 2007 Sustainable Communities Award. Win-



Photos by Office of Public Information
 A test well, shown above, was used to determine that a geothermal system can heat and cool the new Finksburg library. At right are engineering plans for a geothermal well.



ners will be announced this fall.

The groundbreaking begins at 9 a.m. at 2255 Old Westminster Pike in Finksburg. Parking is available at Sandymount Park.

It's not too late to apply for your Senior Tax Credit

If you or your spouse is at least 65 years old and have a combined income below \$50,000, you may be eligible for a tax credit on your house.

The credit is for taxes on the first \$300,000 of your home's value. If your house is assessed higher, you still may qualify for a credit on the first \$300,000.

To qualify, your net worth as of Dec. 31, 2006, cannot have been more than \$500,000. That does not include the value of your house, many retirement plans (including IRAs), or

personal property.

The credit can only be applied to your primary residence. If this information is incorrect on your tax bill, please contact the State's Department of Assessments and Taxation at 1-888-246-5941.

To apply, complete the Maryland State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit application. That one form is all that is necessary for both the state and county tax credit programs. Since the state's net worth limit is only \$200,000, it is possible for someone to qualify

for the county's credit but not the state's.

You must apply each year for the credit, even if you were eligible the year before. The deadline to apply is Sept. 1, 2007. If you have already paid your taxes, you could receive a refund equal to the approved credit.

Forms are available at any senior center or online at <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html>. If you have any questions, call the Bureau of Aging at 410-386-3800.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Carroll County Government's web site, <http://ccgovernment.carr.org>, offers several ways to learn about what's happening in our county:

- Podcasts of weekly radio addresses
- Video streaming of Commissioners' meetings
- Email subscription services to more than 30 web pages
- Original CCG 24 television programming
- Online payment of water, sewer and property tax bills
- County budget
- Carroll demographics
- Job postings
- Recreational opportunities
- Directories
- **MUCH MORE!**

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

JULY 3

◆ Budget procedure. Granted approval 3-0 for the Library Board of Trustees to maintain a year-end fund balance of no more than 5 percent of the current operating budget; rather than having unexpended funds revert to the County at the end of the fiscal year.

◆ Administrative procedures. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning that would revise the administrative procedures related to rezonings and amendments to clarify them and to conform to current State law and local practices.

◆ Zoning amendment. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning that would prohibit billboards along scenic roadways such as the Hampstead Bypass.

◆ Purchase of property. Approved 3-0 the purchase of Hyde's Quarry consisting of 60.15 acres for \$1,251,000.

◆ Purchase of property. Approved 3-0 the purchase of the Gilbert/Siford property at 708 Old Westminster Pike for \$310,000. This property is part of the Market Street extended project that will allow traffic to cross MD 140 and continue to Old Westminster Pike.

◆ YMCA quarterly report. Voted 3-0 to approve a required quarterly progress report on the child-care center at the Carroll Family YMCA.

◆ Public hearing. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments that would allow wineries as a conditional use within the Conservation District.

◆ Detention center. On a 3-0 vote, approved a food service proposal from Martin's Catering to provide lunch and dinner meals to the inmates of the Car-

roll County Detention Center during an emergency kitchen closure for the installation of refrigeration equipment, and ceiling and floor replacement. The standard bidding process was waived due to time constraints. Staff will provide a cold breakfast to help defer costs.

◆ Electricity transmission line. Voted 3-0 to send a letter to the Department of Energy regarding proposed federal legislation addressing energy needs that would fast-track approval of transmission facilities and designating areas as National Interest Electric Transmission Bottleneck's. While the Commissioners recognize the need for energy facilities, this letter seeks to ensure the rights of Carroll County citizens regarding public involvement in the process and expresses concerns regarding eminent domain and property ownership rights.

◆ Noxious weeds. Agreed 3-0 to sign a 3-year agreement with the Maryland Department of Agriculture that Carroll County will receive funds of \$4,000 per year to provide for control and eradication of noxious weeds.

JULY 12

◆ Resolution. Voted 3-0 to execution a resolution declaring the County's intent to reimburse fiscal year 2008 Community Investment Plan (CIP) expenditures with debt proceeds. This resolution is necessary to meet the IRS regulations for bond issuance and covers the \$111,748,916 of projected bond funding in the adopted FY08 CIP.

◆ Freedom Water Treatment Plant Expansion. Approved 3-0 a change order to add a transmission main to a contract with Metcalf & Eddy for \$3,506,203. The original contract was approved Sept. 26, 2006, with the understanding that the transmission main would be added to the project when funding was appropriated in the FY08 CIP.

◆ Vicious animal appeal. On separate 3-0 votes, approved the appointment of a Board of Appeals to hear an appeal from the owner (Sharon Close) of a dog ("Abigail") that has been declared to be vicious by the Humane Society; and agreed that the appeals board members be selected randomly from a list prepared by the County Attorney's Office.

◆ Program Open Space. Approved 3-0 the allocation of \$648,493 in Program Open Space funds to the municipalities of New Windsor, Taneytown, Union Bridge, and Westminster for various projects.

◆ Bid approval. Voted 3-0 to award Innovative Floor Systems a \$35,317 contract to provide and install the SRS Degadur R61SL full flake flooring system at the Carroll County Detention Center kitchen.

JULY 19

◆ Funds transfer. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) the transfer of \$84,400 from the Reserve for Contingency for costs associated with a new sheriff's deputy, including salary, communication equipment, and one-time costs for a vehicle and outfitting the officer. The Sheriff's Office requested the additional deputy to help offset their increased manpower commitment to New Windsor.

◆ Funds transfer. Voted 2-0 to approve an inter-functional transfer of \$351,000 by Carroll Community College. The unexpended FY07 funds are available due to fringe benefit cost savings resulting from a lower-than-anticipated rate increase and salary funds created by positions being vacant. The funds will be used for a theater storage addition, modifications to improve the acoustic and rigging functions in the theater, and for security improvements to the parking lot phone system and security cameras.

◆ Public hearing. Agreed 2-0 to proceed to public hearing with an ordinance to make permanent the existing temporary amendment to Chapter 223, Zoning – Biosolids, regarding the temporary storage of dried, pelletized sewage sludge.

◆ Loan request. On a 2-0 vote, gave approval of loan request of \$250,000 from Pleasant Valley Community Fire Co. for the purchase of a new tanker truck. In a separate 2-0 vote, agreed to execute a resolution declaring the County's intent to reimburse the cost with debt proceeds.

◆ Funding for study. Agreed 2-0 to accept \$7,500 in funds from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and to provide matching County funds for a feasibility study of digesters to process animal waste from dairy farms in Carroll County.

◆ Bid approval. Voted 2-0 to award a contract for computer services to AMTEK in the amount of \$26,520 for one year. The contract covers the maintenance and repair on 21 file servers and 137 printers located at various Carroll County facilities.

JULY 26

◆ Pawnbrokers. On a 3-0 vote, approved taking to public hearing a proposal to regulate pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers.

◆ Agricultural Land Preservation easements. In a single 3-0 vote, accepted 14 applications for agricultural land preservation easements for properties currently under district agreements. *(The specific landowners and the size of their parcels are listed on Page 3.)*

◆ Additional Agricultural Land Preservation easements. Approved 3-0 the applications for 20 more agricultural land preservation easements. Because of a change in state law, these parcels

County employees save energy, money with national initiative

Carroll County Government employees are pledging to change at least one light bulb in their homes to an energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulb.



It's part of a national Change a Light competition, sponsored by the National Association of Counties and Office Depot.

Employees who take the pledge receive a coupon for the energy-efficient bulbs at Office Depot. The three counties in the country with the highest percentage of employees participating will be recognized this fall.

So far, Carroll is the only county in Maryland to take the challenge. As of July 31, more than 100 employees had taken the pledge. The

program runs through Sept. 13.

Each bulb can save more than \$30 in electricity costs over its lifetime and prevent more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

Stay tuned this fall for information on how all residents can participate in the 2007 County Energy Star Change a Light Campaign.

Votes

Continued from Page 2

do not need to record district agreements. (*The specific land-owners and the size of their parcels are listed on the right.*)

◆ Rifle range. Voted 3-0 to establish a new capital project in the budget for the rebuilding of a rifle range at the Hap Baker Firearms Facility, and to transfer funds to the project. A February 2007 blaze destroyed the former range. The new project will receive funding from three sources: insurance payment of \$200,075; Risk Management fund (\$5,000 for the insurance deductible); and \$14,614 from the fund for the pistol range, which is now completed.

◆ Aging services. Voted 3-0 to approve a four-year Area Plan for Aging. The state requires such a plan. It documents services for older adults with the greatest economic and social needs, and includes budgets for those services.

◆ Emergency Food Assistance Program. Approved 3-0 to sign a memorandum of agreement with Carroll County Food Sunday to store and distribute food to needy people. Money for the program originates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

◆ Weatherization assistance. In a 3-0 vote, approved the Weatherization Assistance Grant agreement for fiscal year 2008. Carroll County received \$140,463 to assist approximately 46 households that need to make repairs to improve energy efficiency. The

Properties applying for agricultural land preservation easements

Properties subject to recorded District Agreements (acreage rounded to nearest tenth):

- 106.5 acres owned by Don C. and Sally L. Walters
- 96 acres, Raymond G. and James D. Boccabella
- 288.3 acres, H. Morton Rosen
- 145.7 acres, Matthew and Joanne Pinkas
- 21.5 acres, Josef V. and Ivana K. Frydl
- 160.2 acres, Lawrence E. Meeks
- 94.8 acres, Charles L. Nelson
- 101.5 acres, Larry and Beverly Tasto
- 64 acres, John L. Dubs et al
- 50 acres, Eric W. and Susan Ruppert
- 59.8 acres, David Lee Buford
- 113 acres, Elmer B. and Patricia A. Durham
- 75.3 acres, Kenneth W. Staley
- 65 acres, Alfred E. Barnes

Properties not subject to recorded District Agreements, including locations (acreage rounded to nearest tenth):

- 56.4 acres, north of Blacks Schoolhouse Road, east of Blacks Corner; Marvin Edward and Barbara Ann Brown
- 54.2 acres, Bear Run Road; Steven M. and Hope M. Baker
- 71 acres, Unger Road; Gordon, Betty, Eric and Bradley Brauning
- 215 acres, Warfieldsburg Road; Richard W. Sr.

and Eileen M. Soper

- 205.9 acres, West Deep Run Road; Gail Rogers
- 174.6 acres, Bachmans Valley Road; Helen Tracy Totura
- 149.4 acres, Feezer Road; Jason A. and Dianne I. Tate
- 90.6 acres, Halter Road; Helen Louise Jewell
- 250.9 acres, Freter Road; Melvin E. Leppo Revocable Living Trust and the Regina D. Lepp Revocable Living Trust
- 72 acres, Crouse Mill Road; Catherine S. Stultz
- 76.4 acres, Mayberry Road; 100 John Street LLC
- 108.2 acres, Ruggles Road; Stafford T. and Avanell D. Keith
- 75 acres, Blacks Schoolhouse Road; Steve D. and Lori E. Harman
- 52.3 acres, Biemiller Road; Donald A. Leister
- 128 acres, Stonesifer Road; Roy W. Georg and Karen G. Sirian
- 124.7 acres, south of Diehl Road; James L. and Constance L. Few
- 87.3 acres, Davis Road; Bradshaw Family Revocable Trust
- 29.9 acres, Kump Station Road; Curtis Dean Meadows and Helen Whitridge Thomas
- 81.7 acres, Snydersburg Road; Deborah Ann Boog-Sherman and Frederick Eugene Boog
- 48.1 acres, Bethel Road; Charles Douglas and Karen Elizabeth Eaton

money comes from multiple sources: \$57,775 from U.S. Department of Energy; \$46,032 from the Maryland Energy Assistance Program; \$26,656 from consumer fees; and \$10,000 from BG&E.

◆ Senior assisted living subsidy. Voted 3-0 to approve an application for \$116,767 in state grant

funds toward the Senior Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy Program. The program helped 25 individuals in the county last year.

◆ Junction. Approved 3-0 an application for a grant to Junction from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The \$46,321 grant would con-

tinue a program to provide psychiatric services for adolescents and young adults who also have addictions.

◆ Ag Center access road. Voted 3-0 to allow the Public Works director to approve a change order for construction of a new access road. The changes total \$26,149.

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, AUGUST 1

2:30 p.m. Zoning administration variance hearings – Room 124C
3 p.m. Public workshop on a proposal to allow wineries as conditional uses in conservation zoning districts – Room 105
4 p.m. Presentation of Transportation Outlook 2035: long-range transportation plan for the Baltimore region – Room 003

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

9 a.m. Finksburg Library groundbreaking – 2255 Old Westminster Pike
10:30 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
1:30 p.m. Circle of Caring Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with the

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Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Public hearings: Prohibition of new billboards around the Hampstead Bypass; reorganization of procedures related to amendments and zoning; and proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning to allow wineries as conditional uses in the Conservation District.

10 a.m. (following public hearings) Board of County Commissioners – 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

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

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, AUGUST 15

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W Main St., Westminster. (Part of the meeting will be closed to choose the electrical master exam questions.)

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

3 p.m. Public workshop to answer questions and receive comments on a proposal to allow the storage of sewage sludge (biosolids) as a permanent zoning text amendment – Room 105

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

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, AUGUST 22

3 p.m. Joint meeting of Board of Education and County Commissioners – Room 311

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

10 a.m. Public hearing on a proposal to allow the storage of sewage sludge (biosolids) as a permanent zoning text amendment – Room 311
10 a.m. (following public hearing) Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

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.



Read 'County Connection' online

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CARROLL COUNTY

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