

# County Connection

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

## ‘Green’ efforts move forward

### *County adds 2 new initiatives to protect the environment*

In the past month, the Board of County Commissioners took two major steps toward sustainable development in Carroll County.

In the first, called Builders for the Bay, the Commissioners announced a roundtable discussion to evaluate current development practices. The goal is to protect natural resources with innovative designs and techniques.

The roundtable is expected to look at four main topics — residential streets and parking lots; lot design; natural resource management; and storm water management — according to the letter sent to area builders and other participants.

The first session will be held all day on Wednesday, Sept. 26, in Westminster. Invitations were mailed out in the middle of August. Smaller groups also may meet periodically throughout the coming year to address specific areas.

Builders for the Bay is expected to complement Carroll’s comprehensive plan called Pathways to Carroll’s Future Landscape. After two years of community involvement, the plan is being written to guide growth for the next two decades.

Carroll is the third county in Maryland to hold this type of event. Harford and Baltimore counties sponsored similar roundtables.

Builders for the Bay originated from a regional watershed

agreement. Partners in the project include the Homebuilders Association of Maryland, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the Center for Watershed Protection.

Under the second initiative, Cool Counties, the board voted 2-1 to pursue reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years.

Members of the county’s Environmental Advisory Council presented information on the Cool Counties program, which asks participants to find ways to help stabilize the climate.

In addition to adopting the

Cool Counties Agreement, Carroll will create a group to develop strategies to reduce pollution. Members of the group will come from the Environmental Advisory Council and from the community.

Other Maryland counties signing onto the Cool Counties or similar initiative include Anne Arundel, Howard, Frederick and Queen Anne’s.

Carroll’s recent efforts toward “green” construction and energy efficiency earned it finalist status for the 2007 national Sustainable Communities Award. Winners will be announced later this fall.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- September is Emergency Preparedness Month.
- Every home should have ready for an emergency: a radio, a flashlight with batteries, and a gallon of water per person per day for three days.
- Carroll County’s Citizen Corps is holding its second annual Preparedness Awareness Expo and Blood Drive on Friday, Sept. 14, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Carroll Non-Profit Center at 255 Clifton Blvd.
- Come to give blood, learn what you need to be prepared, listen to live broadcasts from WTTR, eat a hot dog, and get a goody bag.
- For questions or to volunteer to help, call the Carroll County Office of Public Safety Support Services at 410-386-2296.

### UNDERGROUND ASSISTANCE



Office of Public Information

An engine from the Pleasant Valley Community Fire Co. hooks up to a new 30,000-gallon underground fire protection tank on Aug. 8 to show members of the media how crews can access water to battle blazes. The Cherrytown Road tank is the county’s second of three regional tanks that have been installed in an ongoing effort to provide reliable water sources to the county’s volunteer firefighters, especially in older communities where public water systems do not exist and residential sprinkler systems are rare. Streams and farm ponds often cannot be used to fight fires during times of drought or inclement weather. The other two tanks are located in Keysville and south of Taylorsville.

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

### AUGUST 2

- ◆ Public housing report. Voted 3-0 to approve and sign the fiscal year 2007 Section 8 Management Assessment Program report to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- ◆ Bid approval. Agreed 3-0 to award Control Roofing and Sheet Metal Corp. a \$416,502 contract for the completion of roof alterations and/or replacement at the Westminster Library.
- ◆ Contract approval. Authorized 3-0 the award of a term contract to purchase vehicle parts and batteries from AutoZone Stores Inc. through a piggyback from a U.S. Communities contract. Estimated expenditure for the year is \$50,000.
- ◆ Funds transfer. Approved 3-0 the transfer of \$307,000 from various projects to the Hampstead Sludge Dewatering Facility project. The funds will be used to replace the current sludge press with a larger, more efficient press that will also require an addition to the building to accommodate it.
- ◆ Purchase order. Agreed 3-0 to issue a \$373,963 purchase order to FKC Co. for the purchase of one screw press and associated equipment to be used at the Hampstead Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ◆ Purchase order. Voted 3-0 to issue a purchase order to Dell Computers using the Western States Contracting Alliance to purchase 140 desktop computers and 21 laptop computers for various county-supported agencies for a total cost of \$148,682.25.
- ◆ Community partnership. Approved 3-0 a Community Partnership Agreement for FY 2008 allowing the Local Management Board to accept operating and program funds from the Governor's Office for Children.
- ◆ Funds transfer. Approved 3-0 the transfer of \$418,415 from contingency reserves to the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency

Services Association for the purchase of a reserve medic unit, a reserve engine, and a utility vehicle.

### AUGUST 9

- ◆ Public hearing. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing and to adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning, to allow wineries in the conservation zone.
- ◆ Public hearing. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing and to adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning, prohibiting new billboards around the Hampstead Bypass.
- ◆ Public hearing. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing and to adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning, to reorganize procedures related to amendments and rezoning.
- ◆ Bond claim – Carroll Wood Estates. On a 2-0 vote (Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer abstained), agreed to sign a letter to Westminster Union Bank to claim the bond for Carroll Wood Estates if the developer fails to complete landscaping and road work obligations as stated in the Public Works Agreement. If an extension is not received before the expiration date of the letter of credit, the county needs to claim the bond to complete the work.
- ◆ Bond claim – Wildwood Park. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter to BB&T Bank to claim the bond for Wildwood Park if the developer fails to complete forest conservation obligations as stated in the Public Works Agreement. If an extension is not received before the expiration date of the letter of credit, the county needs to claim the bond to complete the work.
- ◆ Airport taxes. Approved 3-0 the abatement of \$25,396.28 of the county portion of the property tax for FY 2007-2008.
- ◆ Bid approvals. On separate 3-0 votes, awarded the following contracts: 1) \$134,750 to Bare Truck Center for the purchase of a

- tri-axle roll-off truck to replace a 1985 roll-off truck used by Landfill Operations; 2) \$261,425 to M-B Companies Inc. for a new paint striping truck to replace a 1988 paint striping truck that was totaled in an accident; 3) \$180,000 to Alpha Space Control Company for road striping through a piggyback from a Maryland State Highway contract; 4) a total of approximately \$250,000 to eight firms (Chesapeake Corp., Coyne Chemical, Delta Chemical Corp., Gulbrandsen Technologies, Harvey Salt Co., Polydyne, Siemens Water Technologies Corp., and Univar) to provide chemicals for drinking water and wastewater treatment; and 5) \$251,000 to GRC General Contractors Inc. for the construction of a pavilion at the Hap Baker Firearm Facility to replace one that was destroyed by fire.
- ◆ Airpark stormwater project. Approved 3-0 to expend funds of \$3,544 to finalize a contract for the design of the Airpark Watershed stormwater pond restoration and retrofit project as required of the County's existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.
- ◆ Medicaid waiver grant. Voted 3-0 to approve an application for a Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults FY08 grant for state and federal funds totaling \$198,514. The money provides services to low-income adults who are at least 50 years old. Carroll County has 92 participants.
- ◆ Juvenile intervention program. Voted 3-0 to approve an FY 2008 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant award of \$36,645 to operate the Adventure Diversion Program for juveniles who have violated court orders and are at risk for out-of-home placement. Matching funds will come from the state's Department of Juvenile Services. This is year two of a three-year grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. Matching funds will come from the state's Department of Juvenile Services.

- ◆ Juvenile group therapy program. Voted 3-0 to approve an FY2008 Byrne Justice Assistance award of \$103,399 to operate the Interactive Group Therapy Program. The program provides treatment for juveniles who are under the supervision of or are at-risk of Department of Juvenile Services' involvement. The Carroll County Youth Services Bureau provides the program.
  - ◆ Domestic Violence Prosecutor. Agreed 3-0 to accept an award of \$103,229 from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for the State's Attorney's Office. This federal Violence Against Women Act grant partially funds a prosecutor for the domestic violence unit.
  - ◆ Domestic Violence Unit. Voted 3-0 to approve a request from the Sheriff's Office to apply for a federal Violence Against Women Act grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. The grant requests \$49,879 to cover the salary and part of the benefits of a domestic violence facilitator.
  - ◆ Jail diversion program. Agreed 3-0 to modifications to the grant including extending the grant period for 90 days, decreasing the number of inmates served from 40 to 30, extending the treatment period of patients to 84 days if necessary, and reducing the county grant match from \$92,379 to \$20,540.
- ### AUGUST 14
- ◆ Emergency operations. Approved 3-0 the purchase of additional software and training services from Priority Dispatch Corp. and Public Safety Systems Inc. for \$133,246.75 to upgrade the existing emergency dispatch operations program.
  - ◆ Business parks. Voted 3-0 to adopt a proposed amendment to Chapter 223 that will allow business parks in the IR (Industrial Restricted) Zone.

# Votes

*Continued from Page 2*

◆ Land preservation easement. Agreed 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase a County-held land preservation easement for Doris G. Zimmerman on 140.35 acres of land, located on Teeter Road, Taneytown. The purchase price is \$625,075.

◆ Transportation priority. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation prepared by the Department of Planning outlining transportation priorities for 2007-2008. Priority No. 1 is the MD 32 reconstruction/dualization north of Interstate 70 in Howard County to Md. Rt. 26 in Freedom, and number two is the Manchester bypass of Md. Rt. 30.

◆ Builders for the Bay. By consensus, agreed to sign a letter announcing the kick-off event for the Builders for the Bay. The initiative will evaluate development practices so that natural resources can be protected more effectively.

## AUGUST 23

◆ Agricultural land preservation. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer was absent) to approve applications for preservation easements on four parcels of agricultural land. The properties are: 116.75 acres at East Otterdale Mill Road owned by Margaret E. Davis; 123.5 acres off Traceys Mill Road owned by Panora Acres Inc.; and two parcels, 137 acres and 28.8 acres, along Gillis Falls Road owned by Michael R. and Ann H. Harrison.

◆ Software. Approved 2-0 the purchase of computer software from i2 Inc. for the State's Attorney's Office and the Drug Task Force for \$33,476. The software is expected to reduce investigators' workload significantly in certain types of cases.

◆ Pickup trucks. In two separate 2-0 votes, approved the purchase of six trucks through a State of Maryland contract. Two 2008

models – a ¾-ton and a one-ton version – were bought from Miller Brothers Ford for a total of \$50,857. The remaining four trucks, all 2008 ¾-ton models, also were bought from Miller Brothers for a total of \$123,874.

◆ Cape Horn Park. Agreed 2-0 to award Mid Atlantic Turf Inc. a contract for \$101,374 to renovate field No. 2 at Cape Horn Park in Hampstead.

## AUGUST 28

◆ Agricultural land preservation. On a 3-0 vote, chose to exercise options to buy three preservation easements. The properties are: 259.59 acres on Keysville Road, Keymar, from the Hutchison Family Limited Partnership for \$1,532,300; 56.44 acres east of Patapsco Road, Finksburg, from Robert Henry Miller Sr. for \$426,888; and 84.19 acres on Wesley Road, Finksburg, from Robert Henry Miller Sr. for \$632,863.

◆ Annexation. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter supporting the annexation request of a 0.4 acre parcel on Shiloh Road into Hampstead town limits as long as zoning designations did not change. The town will hold a public meeting at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at Hampstead Town Hall.

◆ Adopt-a-Roundabout. Voted 3-0 to have the Department of Public Works institute an Adopt-A-Roundabout Program, whereby volunteers provide landscaping and maintenance in exchange for a sign giving the adopter credit.

◆ Environmental assessment. Postponed a decision on what company will conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed expansion of the Carroll County Regional Airport. Commissioners were concerned about the perception of hiring the same firm as the one the recommended expanding the runway in a 20-year master plan update.

## AUGUST 30

◆ "Cool Counties." On a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Zimmer opposed, voted to sign onto the Cool Counties program, whereby the



Office of Public Information

## Carroll booth takes top honors

Carroll County's booth was named the best in the state at the Maryland Association of Counties' 2007 Summer Conference last month. This year's theme was "Under the Big Top."

Tourism calendars and other

information about each county are distributed at the booths. Thousands of people visit the exhibits each year.

The booth was designed, constructed, and staffed by county employees.

county strives to reduce pollution to help stabilize the climate. A commission will be formed, including members of the Environmental Advisory Council and members of the private sector, to inventory and deliver strategies to help reverse climate change.

◆ Well monitoring. Voted 3-0 to hire Maryland Environmental Services to implement maintenance of monitoring wells at Hodges and Bark Hill landfills. Work includes the replacement of two and the redevelopment of all other wells at Hodges, and installation of an additional well at Bark Hill, for a total of \$30,430. Maryland Department of the Environment required that the work be performed.

◆ Playground equipment. Approved 3-0 the purchase of new playground equipment at the Sports Complex. By using a U.S. Communities contract, the cost will be \$61,611 for West Recreation to provide the material and installation.

◆ Freedom Park. Voted 3-0 to spend \$55,577 for the purchase and installation of a swing set and four covered picnic tables (mini-pavilions) from West Recreation.

◆ Westminster Community Pond. On a 3-0 vote, approved the purchase of a large pavilion, a playground unit, and a swing set for the park. The items and their installation will cost \$133,766.

◆ Solar water heater. Approved 3-0 an application to the Maryland Energy Administration for a \$1,413 grant to cover up to 20 percent of the cost of a solar water heater system at the Finksburg Library.

◆ Library headquarters. On a 3-0 vote, awarded the bid for renovations to the old New Windsor Middle School to Morgan-Keller. The space will be used for headquarters for the Carroll County Public Library and additional county government offices. The construction bid was for \$6.9 million.

# 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, SEPTEMBER 3

County offices closed in observance of Labor Day

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311

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

6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

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## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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, SEPTEMBER 13

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105

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 Mayors – Room 311

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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, SEPTEMBER 19

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country

Restaurant, 289 W Main St., Westminster  
(A portion of meeting may be closed to prepare master electrical exam)

2:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners' annual meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation – Room 311

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311

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

1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

3 p.m. Public information meeting with Maryland Department of the Environment about Total Maximum Daily Loads on Monocacy and Big Pipe Creek watersheds – Room 003

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105

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

1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

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## 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*