

County Connection

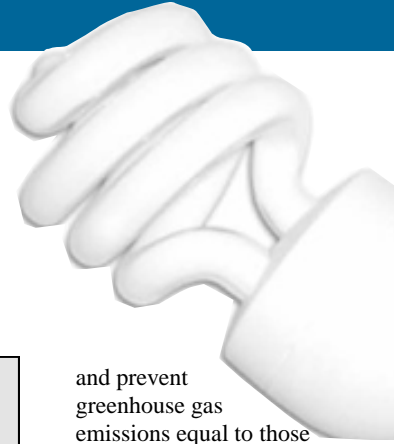
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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2007



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



Residents asked to change a light

Do you want to save money on your electric bill and help the environment at the same time?

If so, then consider taking the Change a Light pledge.

All across the nation, people are pledging to change at least one light bulb in their homes to an energy-efficient compact fluorescent light.

CFLs, as they are called, can cut energy costs by \$30 over their lifetime. Each bulb also prevents more than 400 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

In Carroll County alone, residents could save more than \$1.5 million in energy costs a year, or 17 million

Take the Pledge

Sign up online at naco.org/changealight.

Or visit your local library, senior center, the Citizen Services building at 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster, or the County Office Building.

kilowatt hours, by changing one bulb in every home.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports: "If every home in America replaced just one bulb with an Energy Star-qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes

and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to those of more than 800,000 cars."

The National Association of Counties is sponsoring a contest between counties to see which can get the highest percentage of residents to sign the pledge.

Everyone who signs the pledge will receive a coupon for \$3 off a CFL at Office Depot. The retailer is co-sponsor of the contest.

Residents who participate in the campaign can buy CFLs at any store, however.

The top three counties will be recognized when the contest wraps up on Nov. 30.

County employees take pledge; among top in nation

More than one out of every three Carroll County Government employees agreed to change at least one light bulb in his or her home to an energy-efficient compact fluorescent light.

Their strong commitment to saving energy put them at the top of all mid-sized counties in the United States.

The National Association of Counties held a contest this summer to see which counties could get the highest percent-



age of employees to sign the Change a Light pledge.

In Carroll, 38 percent of employees, or 249 out of 652 workers, took the pledge. They agreed to change at least 797 bulbs.

That translates into sav-

ings of \$20,902 in energy costs. At the same time, nearly 326,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions will be prevented.

The top large county, Hennepin County, Minn., had 12 percent of employees sign the pledge. The highest rate among small counties was 16 percent in Habersham County, Ga.

Compact fluorescent bulbs last 75 percent longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Each compact fluorescent light bulb (CFLs) saves more than \$30 in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb.
- Every CFL prevents more than 400 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.
- The amount of mercury in a CFL is approximately 1/100th the amount in a traditional thermometer.
- The best places to use CFLs are: living and family rooms, kitchens, dining rooms, bedrooms and outdoors.
- Look for specially marked CFLs for use in lights with dimmer switches or three-way fixtures.

Rifle range's sights set on Oct. 9 re-opening

Eight months to the day after a flash of black powder sparked a blaze that destroyed the rifle range at the Hap Baker Firearms Facility, a new range is being dedicated.

County Commissioner Dean L. Minnich will take the ceremonial first shot at the rebuilt facility on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the 9 a.m. dedication.

GRC General Contractors Inc. crews worked along Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks employees to reconstruct the range — from baffles to benches — in time for hunters to sight in their rifles for this month's black powder season.



There are more than 260 season pass holders for the facility, which also houses a pistol range. During fiscal year 2006, atten-

dance at the ranges exceeded 8,400. Season passes were extended to June 30, 2008, to make up for time the range was closed.

The county paid \$299,000 to rebuild the pavilion and replace the range master's office. Insurance paid for all of those expenses. The County will pay an additional \$6,000 to extend the concrete slab in front of the firing line.

Hap Baker opened in 1996 with a rifle range. A pistol range was added in 2004. The facility generated more than \$82,000 in revenue last year.



Putting together final touches



Photos by the Office of Public Information

Crews put last-minute touches on the newly rebuilt rifle range at the Hap Baker Firearms Facility in preparation for its October 9th re-opening.

911 Center to implement new method of handling calls for firefighters

Carroll County's 911 center recently announced plans to implement new protocols to follow when callers report a fire.

By asking a series of questions initially, critical information can be gathered rapidly and consistently. This information includes quick identification of conditions at an incident, scene safety, and correct fire department response. At the same time, the caller will receive instructions for what to do before help arrives.

Carroll County has been using medical and police protocols for a number of years. Fire protocols are the third and final part of a comprehensive system that is in use by less than half of Maryland's 911 call centers.

The Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association endorses the change. Officials of all fourteen fire departments operating in Carroll County are establishing the program's response criteria.



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

SEPTEMBER 6

◆ Equipment purchase. Voted 3-0 to approve the purchase of two 2008 Ford one-ton pickup trucks for \$50,385 from Miller Brother Ford, and four mowing tractors from John Deere for \$38,014.64, through Maryland state contracts. These vehicles and tractors will be replacements for the Bureau of Facilities.

◆ Town/County agreements. Approved 3-0 the fiscal year 2008 agreement with the towns of Hampstead and Union Bridge, and the City of Westminster, in which the County and towns agree to the sharing of funds and participation in planning and other government functions. This agreement includes a direct grant to the town as follows: Hampstead \$303,565, Union Bridge \$65,528, and Westminster \$773,392.

◆ Environmental assessment. Agreed 3-0 to use Delta Airport Consultants to conduct an environmental assessment, which is a required step to any decisions regarding the airport's future.

SEPTEMBER 13

◆ Emergency equipment. On a 3-0 vote, agreed to the relocation of the decontamination trailer to Frederick County, with the understanding that Frederick

County will be responsible for maintaining and staffing it, and that the unit will remain available to aid Carroll County if required.

◆ Equipment purchase. Approved 3-0 the purchase of one Toro Groundmaster mower with cab to be used by the Bureau of Facilities. This purchase in the amount of \$71,889.79 will be made using a State of Maryland contract with Turf Equipment and Supply.

SEPTEMBER 20

◆ Funds adjustment. Voted 2-0 (*Commissioner W. Gouge was absent*) to approve necessary year-end adjustments that will close the General Fund books and outside audit.

◆ Town/County agreement. Agreed 2-0 to approve the FY08 Town-County agreement with the Town of New Windsor that includes a \$69,409 grant from the County.

◆ Twin Arch culvert project. Approved 2-0 the transfer of \$115,000 from the Warfieldsburg Road Bridge account (which was completed under budget) to the Twin Arch bridge account. Additional county funding for the project is needed because the schedule has been accelerated due to the deteriorating condition of the bridge, and federal funding will not be approved in time.

◆ Sewage sludge amendment. On a 2-0 vote, adopted the proposed ordinance that will make permanent a previous temporary text amendment for the storage of sewage sludge.

◆ Pawnbrokers. Agreed 2-0 to adopt the proposed ordinance to regulate pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers.

◆ Bid approval. Approved 2-0 the purchase of three dump trucks from Bare Truck Center in the amount of \$367,985.01 to be used by the Bureau of Roads Operations.

◆ Bid approval. Voted 2-0 to award Ecu Construction Inc. a \$35,490 contract for the construction of a concrete slab for the floor of the new vehicle maintenance building at the Northern Landfill.

SEPTEMBER 25

◆ Hampstead annexation. Authorized 3-0 changes to the county zoning maps for the annexation of the Summit/Taylor properties to the Town of Hampstead. The annexation involves 12 properties, totaling 7.24 acres, between Upper Beckleysville Road and Hillcrest Avenue.

◆ Bid approval. Agreed 3-0 to award American Contracting & Environmental Services Inc. a

\$1,139,900 award for the construction of the Shiloh Wastewater Pumping Station Upgrade.

◆ Cape Horn Park. Awarded 3-0 a \$33,537.76 contract to Mid Atlantic Turf Inc. for renovations to field No. 1 at Cape Horn Park using a current Baltimore County contract.

◆ Police protection report. Approved 3-0 a report by the Sheriff's Office to be submitted to the Secretary of the Maryland State Police for consideration of a State Aid for Police Protection grant. The report outlines the FY 07 actual expenditures and FY 08 estimated expenditures for police protection from the Maryland State Police and the Sheriff's Office.

◆ Town/County agreements. Voted 3-0 to approve the FY 08 agreements with the Town of Manchester and the Town of Mount Airy. The Manchester agreement includes a grant from the county for \$213,920; the Mount Airy agreement includes a grant from the county for \$138,178.

◆ Public hearings. On two separate 3-0 votes, agreed to hold public hearings for the proposed Emergency Operations Plan and the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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, OCTOBER 3

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

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, OCTOBER 8

Offices closed in observance of Columbus Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

9 a.m. Grand reopening of the Hap Baker Firearms Facility – Northern Landfill
1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Room 153, Carroll County Health Department, 290 S. Center St., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

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, OCTOBER 11

7:30 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
8 a.m. Plumbing Advisory Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

2 p.m. Governance Committee (Subcommittee of Circle of Caring) – Department of Citizen Services Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Suite 101, Westminster

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003
2 p.m. Hearing for request for a variance regarding tree harvest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with commissioners – Room 311
10 a.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, OCTOBER 22

7 p.m. Public meeting to discuss Middlebrooke Trail project – Westminster Senior and Community Center, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

1:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Piney Run Nature Center, 30 Martz Road, Sykesville

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311
12:30 p.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster (closed meeting for Electrical Master Exam and grading of exam)
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
7 p.m. Harney community meeting with the Board of County Commissioners – Harney Fire Hall, 5130 Harney Road

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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