

County Connection

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

County to form police force

Carroll County will form a county-wide police force in the coming years, unifying law enforcement efforts outside of the county's eight towns.

The Board of County Commissioners voted Oct. 4 to move away from the Maryland State Police Resident Trooper program and replace it with a county police force, headed by an appointed chief of police.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office eventually would revert to serving summons, transporting prisoners and providing courthouse security, which are constitutionally required duties of an elected sheriff.

A transition team will look at how to shift the 67 certified officers from the Sheriff's Office to a new police force. Chief of Staff Steven Powell will lead the team.

Through the Resident Trooper Program, Carroll County pays for troopers to be assigned local patrols throughout the county. In the most recent budget year, the County paid \$4.9 million for 36 troopers and nine investigators. The cost includes a non-negotiable 22 percent administrative fee.

The Westminster Barrack of the Maryland State Police would remain staffed with general troopers, as all 23 barracks across the state are staffed.

While professionalism is high among both the troopers and deputies, a single police agency would be more efficient than the current system.

The cost to operate a county police force is expected to be comparable to current costs after startup expenses.

New set of wheels



Office of Public Information

Carroll County Public Library unveiled its new bookmobile on Oct. 26. A satellite dish tops the handicap-accessible vehicle. The dish provides the on-board computer with access to the Internet. Patrons can check out books, magazines, DVDs and CDs. The white truck replaces a blue bus that was used for approximately 20 years. Contact the library at 410-386-4500 to find out when the bookmobile will be stopping at a senior living community, daycare center, or neighborhood near you.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- The Carroll County Department of Economic Development recently won several awards from the Northeast Economic Development Association.
- Earning "Awards of Excellence" were the department's 2006 Annual Report, a testimonial advertisement featuring the CEO of Intellitech, and an electronic newsletter.
- The newly redesigned Internet home page, www.carrollbiz.org, earned a "Superior Award."

Change a Light campaign continues

Don't forget to take the pledge to change at least one bulb in your home to a compact fluorescent light (CFLs). Sign up online at www.naco.org/changealight.

So far, 85 Carroll County residents have decided to save money and electricity by changing to CFLs through the competitive campaign sponsored by the National Association of Counties. Another 202 signed up directly on the Energy Star web site. The contest ends Nov. 30.

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

OCTOBER 4

◆ Bid approval. Agreed 3-0 to award a contract to Resources for Human Development to organize and manage a long-term residential program of substance abuse treatment services. A committee recommended this proposal as the best value for the work required. Funding has been approved for \$700,000.

◆ Habitat for Humanity. Voted 3-0 to waive permit fees for the construction of an affordable housing unit in Westminster.

◆ County Police Department. On a 3-0 vote approved a plan to establish a task force, headed by the chief of staff, to transition to a county police department under the direct authority of the Commissioners.

◆ Northeast Area High School. Agreed 3-0 to sign the annexation petition to the Town of Manchester for the parcel of the Northeast Area High School site that is owned by the Carroll County Commissioners.

OCTOBER 8

◆ Water and sewer plan. Voted 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with a proposed amendment to the Master Plan for Water and Sewerage. The amendment was certified and recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission on Sept. 18.

◆ Site plan requirements. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments to Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land, regarding site plan requirements for architectural elements.

◆ Grant award. Voted 3-0 to accept a \$47,505 Violence Against Women Act grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to the Sheriff's Office that will fund the salary and partial benefits for a facilitator with the domestic violence program.

◆ Grant award. Accepted 3-0 a

\$93,625 Violence Against Women Act grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to the State's Attorney's Office for salary and benefits for the domestic violence prosecutor.

◆ Contract approval. Agreed 3-0 to award a contract for the virtualization of 20 to 23 file servers using a Western States Cooperative Alliance contract with Dell Computers. The cost of these improvements will be \$293,084.

◆ County Health Plan. Voted 3-0 to approve the county health insurance plan for 2008 that increases County employees' and retirees' share of their health insurance premiums.

◆ Certified officers pension plan. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with a proposal for a pension plan for certified law enforcement officers.

OCTOBER 18

◆ Grant application. On a 3-0 vote, gave preliminary approval for the Sheriff's Office to prepare an application for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds for the third year of the Substance Abuse Treatment Jail Diversion Program.

◆ Town/County agreements. Approved 3-0 the fiscal year 2008 agreements with the Town of Sykesville and the City of Taneytown. This agreement includes a direct grant to the towns as follows: Sykesville \$238,280 and Taneytown \$343,521.

◆ Bid approvals. On separate 3-0 votes, awarded the following contracts: 1) \$100,366 to Playground Specialist Inc. for a play unit and pavilion for Double Pipe Creek Park; and 2) \$54,547.99 to Greenhorne & O'Mara Inc. to analyze 11 bridges for cleaning and painting structural steel.

OCTOBER 25

◆ Annexation. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich was absent) to sign official zoning maps to reflect annexation of the Summit/Taylor properties into

Hampstead. The annexation involves 12 properties, totaling 7.24 acres, between Upper Beckleysville Road and Hillcrest Avenue.

◆ Transportation plan. Approved 2-0 the annual Transportation Plan awards for fiscal year 2008, totaling \$519,338 in state and federal funds. Money goes to the operation of bus service by the Carroll Area Transit System to senior citizens, the disabled population and the general public. County matching funds equal \$16,352. The award includes two additional vehicles, and renovations to the CATS facility.

◆ Homeland Security grant. Voted 2-0 to approve \$442,412 in Department of Homeland Security grants. The program's purpose is to prevent, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism. The funds will be used for State Homeland Security, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and Citizen Corps expenses.

◆ Child support enforcement. Approved 2-0 a grant agreement for the Circuit Court of Carroll County for Fiscal Year 2008. Grant funds of \$17,965 from the Department of Health and Human Services, and \$10,907 in matching county funds, will provide partial funding for employee salaries and benefits and operating expenses.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 2-0 a contract to Spatial Systems Associates in the amount of \$652,814.33 for mapping services. Spatial will develop core datasets for Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Data include street centerlines, building locations, pictures of each structure larger than 100 square feet, property use information, addresses, access roads, and driveways.

◆ Rain cover. Approved 2-0 the purchase of a rain cover for \$370,732.29 to protect a 12-acre portion of the new cell at the Northern Landfill that has been reserved for future use. The cover

also will divert stormwater from the active fill area and will save more than \$4 million over its five-year lifespan.

◆ FSK pumping station. Voted 2-0 to approve a change order in the amount of \$281,749.65 to finalize payment for the completed Francis Scott Key Pumping Station and Force Main project. The majority of the additional costs are due to unforeseen rock drilling of the 4-inch main along Hoff and Stem Roads and MD 75.

◆ Bond resolution. Voted 2-0 to sign a resolution authorizing nearly \$37.7 million in general obligation bonds. Money from the sale of the bonds will pay for previously approved capital projects and loans to volunteer fire companies. Another \$6.7 million in bonds from 1997 will be refunded to save approximately \$550,000 in interest.

OCTOBER 30

◆ Vicious animal appeal. Voted 3-0 to have an appointed board hear an appeal by owners of two dogs recently ruled to be "vicious" by the Humane Society.

◆ Grant. Agreed 3-0 to accept grant funding for the Legal Aid Bureau, which provides certain free legal services to people 60 years or older. There is no local funding match.

◆ Sludge dewatering facility. On a 3-0 vote, transferred \$140,000 into the budget for the Hampstead Sludge Dewatering Facility. The funds were left over from another project that cost less than anticipated.

◆ Carroll Highlands. Approved 3-0 to transfer \$19,030 left over from the purchase of a grinder at the Carroll Highlands Pumping Station to an account for future renovations of the pumping station.

◆ Property tax exemptions. On a single 3-0 vote, approved eight requests for property tax exemptions from nonprofit organizations for properties that benefit residents

Commissioners seek bond bill, 'green' tax credit

Commissioners will request two new bills from Carroll County's delegation to the General Assembly in the 2008 session.

The first would give them the ability to create a tax credit for environmentally friendly construction efforts for commercial and industrial properties. The second authorizes the annual issuing of bonds to pay for new schools, agricultural land preservation, and other major capital projects.

In addition to the County Commissioners' requests, other local agencies are submitting bills they would like to see approved.

The State's Attorney is asking for a salary equal to a district court judge's, rather than the current 80 percent. In addition, he seeks annual cost-of-living increases. Under the Maryland Constitution, the increased salary would not take effect until 2011, at the start of a new term.

The Health Department wants to prohibit the distribution of certain tobacco products and related items to minors. Violating the law would be a civil offense, rather than a criminal one.

The Humane Society requests higher fines and additional jail time when people violate domestic animal control laws.

Finally, the Liquor Board asked for two pieces of legislation. The first would increase the cost of

specified liquor licenses. The second would allow certain license holders to sell alcohol from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sundays, and creating new seven-day licenses.

Because Carroll County has a commissioner form of government, all legislation must be approved by the delegates and senators who represent Carroll. If the delegation approves a bill, the full General Assembly also must approve the measure before it can become law.

Proposals outline response to emergencies, mitigation of hazards

Residents will have an opportunity to comment on two plans county agencies will use for responding to emergencies and for reducing hazards.

A public hearing on the Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation plans will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, in Room 311 of the County Office Building.

The Emergency Operations Plan establishes the roles and responsibilities of Carroll County Government and other local agencies during emergencies. Natural and man-made disasters are both covered in the plan. Procedures are outlined so that resources can be coordinated easily during both the response to and recovery of a major incident.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan guides how resources should be used to reduce the effects of hazards. It addresses natural hazards such as flooding or droughts, as well as technological and other hazards such as dam failure.

Commissioners may make changes to the plans based on comments they receive at the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted prior to the close of the hearing.



Photo courtesy of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office

The Emergency Operations Plan outlines the responsibilities of agencies during an incident. Responses are tested annually during exercises such as the one shown above.

Questions should be addressed to Scott Campbell, administrator of the Office of Public Safety Support Services. He can be reached by calling 410-386-2262 or emailing scampbell@ccg.carr.org.

Comment for the public record should be sent to County Clerk Kathryn Rauschenberg, 225 N. Center Street St., Room 300, Westminster, MD 21157 or emailed to krauschenberg@ccg.carr.org.

Votes *(continued from Page 2)*

of the county. Silver Run Union Mills Lions Club (\$1,044.12); Freedom District Optimist Club (\$7,869.08); Lineboro-Manchester Lions Club (\$5,199.12); Hampstead Lions Club (\$4,241.47); Middleburg Improvement Association (\$763.80); Terra Rubra Lions

Foundation (\$1,195.41); Roaring Run Lions Club (\$1,944.56); and Taylorsville-Winfield Lions Club (\$1,600.30).

◆ Truck. Voted 3-0 to accept a bid from Bare Truck Center of Westminster for \$79,131.43 for a 24-foot rollback truck.

◆ Equipment replacement. On 3-0 vote, approved a bid of \$429,361

from Conewago Enterprises of Hanover, Pa., for labor costs to replace dewatering equipment at the Hampstead Wastewater Treatment Plant.

◆ Snow removal. Approved 3-0 to award bids for contractual snow removal service, adding nine trucks from varying firms toward the county's snow-

removal efforts.

◆ Soil Conservation District. On a 3-0 vote, approved the transfer of \$14,000 to fund an already signed lease for the Soil Conservation District's new offices.

◆ Impact fee waivers. Voted 3-0 to go to public hearing with a proposal to allow the county to waive impact fees for certain projects.

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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

1:30 p.m. Circle of Caring/Homeless Board – Ten Year Planning Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

3 p.m. Public workshop on proposed amendments to Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land, Section 19, site plan requirements – Room 105

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

2:30 p.m. Zoning administration variance hearings – Room 124C
3 p.m. Comptroller's public hearing on issuing general obligation bonds to refund Carroll County Hospital Refunding Bonds of 1997 – Room 301

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:30 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 311
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

County offices closed in observance of Veterans' Day



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster
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, NOVEMBER 14

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
2 p.m. Joint meeting of Board of Education and County Commissioners – Room 311
3 p.m. Circle of Caring Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Dr., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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, NOVEMBER 21

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

County offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Public hearing - proposed Emergency Operations Plan and the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan
10 a.m. Public hearing - Proposed amendments to Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land, Section 19, site plan requirements
1:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

Mark your calendar!

Come to the fourth annual holiday tree lighting outside the County Office Building at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 5.



The event will be marked with music, guest appearances from the cast of "The Nutcracker," and refreshments.

For more information, call Vivian Laxton at 410-386-2804 or send her an email at vlaxton@ccg.carr.org.

Email your commissioners

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org

Not sure who to contact?

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