

County Connection

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

Solid waste options examined

If nothing is done to reduce the rate trash is thrown out, Carroll County's Northern Landfill will run out of space by 2046.

Already, 90 percent of the waste is trucked to Virginia. With rising gas prices and increasing competition, the cost to take trash out of state may quickly become too high to continue. At the same time, some places have banned out-of-state waste, leaving fewer options.

County staff and members of the county's Environmental Advisory Council have been studying the issue of how to manage waste flow. Both say the 3Rs — reduce, reuse and recycle — are the first step.

The Board of County Commissioners heard presentations from staff and the EAC last month, outlining what they believe are the best choices.

The EAC recommends a pay-as-you-throw program to encourage more people to re-

cycle. Under the plan, residents would pay based on the amount of waste they send to the landfill. The group says a new landfill should be developed in the county.

The Department of Public Works recommends building waste-to-energy facility, possibly in partnership with Frederick County. A waste-to-energy facility would burn items that cannot be recycled, generating electricity.

No decisions have been made.

Officers' pension proposed

A proposed retirement plan would allow certified law enforcement officers to retire earlier and would pay them more than the current pension plan.

Under the plan, officers could retire after 25 years, or at age 55 if they have worked at least 15 years as a certified officer.

Participants would continue to be eligible for future Social Security benefits, and could continue to make voluntary contributions to the County's 401(k) plan. Employer contributions to the 401(k) plan of participating officers would be discontinued.

A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 13, in Room 311 of the County Office Building.

Substation opens



Office of Public Information

In November, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office opened a new substation behind the North Carroll public library branch.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Votes	2
Data collection	3
Clear Path	3
Upcoming meetings	4

DID YOU KNOW?

- A new location is being tested to see if a public safety training facility can be built there. The land is outside of Union Bridge between Shepherds Mill and McKinstry's Mill roads. Access to the site is from Shepherds Mill Road.
- A previously considered site along McKinstry's Mill was found to be unusable. The land failed to pass the Health Department's percolation requirements.
- A burn building at the existing training facility on Washington Road near Westminster was condemned and torn down in 2006.

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

NOVEMBER 8

◆ Funds transfer. Voted 3-0 to approve a capital budget resolution allowing the transfer of \$900,000 in funds to the Agricultural Land Preservation Program to purchase an easement on a 289-acre property owned by H. Morten Rosen on Middleburg Road in Union Bridge. These funds are in addition to \$1.5 million committed by Agricultural Preservation and are required to acquire this critical easement, which is contiguous with 15,000 acres under permanent easement. The additional funds will come from three existing capital projects that were completed under budget.

◆ Change order. Agreed 3-0 to grant authority to the director of General Services to sign a change order on a contract with Hanover Pole for the construction of the Northern Landfill Maintenance Building. An oversight in the original contract specified manual overhead doors instead of motorized roll-up doors. The change order is for additional funds of \$15,400 to cover the difference in the cost of the doors.

NOVEMBER 13

◆ Bond sale. Voted 3-0 to award the sale of \$37.18 million in general obligation bonds to Commerce Capital Markets at a 3.94 percent interest rate. The bonds will be used to fund various capital projects including school, library, and road construction and to refund outstanding bonds at a lower interest rate.

◆ Purchasing agreement. Approved 3-0 to enter into a cooperative purchasing agreement with Houston-Galveston Area Council. This resource will allow the county to take advantage of many competitively priced contracts for goods and services for items used by Public Safety, Facilities, and Public Works agencies, including large equipment. Most of the contracts are

with national vendors and would be referred to a local dealer for the actual purchase and delivery.

◆ Dump truck. Awarded 3-0 the purchase of a new one-ton diesel dump truck to Jeff Barnes Chevrolet for \$56,999. The truck will replace a 2000 one-ton dump truck used by the Bureau of Facilities.

◆ Recreation and parks projects. On separate 3-0 votes, approved the transfer of \$42,747 from Community Self Help project funds to the following projects: \$1,163 for a sign at Landon C. Burns Park; \$1,175 for equipment storage containers at East Middle and Friendship Valley Elementary schools; \$6,296 for a press box and \$5,463 for concrete pads and two sets of bleachers at Christmas Tree Park; \$7,424 for softball field backstop fencing, and \$7,424 for baseball field backstop fencing at Liberty High School; \$1,950 for concrete pads and \$2,330 for bleachers at Hodges Park; and \$9,522 for soundproofing in the Carroll Arts Center's community gallery.

◆ Property sale. Agreed 3-0 to allow the chief of staff to sign a contract to sell property at 3455 Uniontown Road in the amount of \$62,000. After acquiring the property in 2004, the County determined that the amount of work and funding necessary to renovate the structure for public use was not feasible. Attempts to raise commercial or community interest in the property were unsuccessful and the building was offered for sale on an "as-is, where-is" basis.

◆ Building code appeal. Voted 3-0 to appoint an appeals board to hear a request by James and Laura Turner regarding a permit issued to Charles and Carol Baker to construct a detached "summer house" and deck on their property located at 1934 Old Taneytown Road in Frizzelburg.

◆ Change order. Agreed 3-0 to amend a purchase order with

Gannett Fleming for engineering services during the construction phase of Cell 3 at the Northern Landfill. Due to an extended construction period and unanticipated conditions, the firm provided additional services in the amount of \$52,797.26.

NOVEMBER 28

◆ Public Hearing. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing on two public safety plans and leave the record open for comment for 10 days. The plans are the Emergency Operations Plan, which establishes the roles and responsibilities of County government and local agencies during emergencies or major disasters, and the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which serves as a guide for committing resources to reduce the effects of material or man-made hazards.

◆ Public Hearing. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing on amendments to site plan requirements and leave the record open for comment for 10 days. The proposed amendments are to Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land Section 19, Site Plan Requirements regarding architectural elements.

◆ Public Hearing. On a 3-0 vote, closed the public hearing on authorization to waive impact fees for certain types of projects and leave the public record open for 10 days. The authorization would come from amendments to Chapter 102, Development Impact Fees.

◆ Revisions to Westminster Plan. On a 3-0 vote, adopted revisions to the Westminster Environs Community Comprehensive Plan.

◆ Land preservation easements. In a single 3-0 vote, agreed to the purchase of several preservation easements. The first was a County-held land preservation easement for George L. and Michaelene J. Makoutz on 108.6 acres of land on Old Taneytown Road in Taneytown, for

\$716,224.36. Easements were purchased on three other properties through the Rural Legacy program: the John Lewis Haines, Sylvia R. Haines, James L. Haines & R. Daniel Haines property of 58.2 acres on Bark Hill Road, Union Bridge for \$300,000; the Wayne and Shelby Fender property of 59.8 acres on Johnsville Road in Keymar for \$391,204; and the Williard L. Hawkins Jr. property of 108 acres on Bowersox Road in New Windsor for \$775,000.

◆ Critical Farms Program. Approved 3-0 an option to purchase a Critical Farms Program easement for \$779,212.87 on an application submitted by Vance and Stephanie Merson for a 119.17 acre farm on Dennings Road in New Windsor.

◆ Annexation. Agreed 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to County zoning maps to reflect annexation of the Proulx/Moxley property into Hampstead. The 0.344 acre parcel is located along the west side of Shiloh Road south of Panther Drive. No zoning waiver was required.

◆ Annexation. Agreed 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to County zoning maps to reflect annexation of the Mason Dixon Builders parcels into New Windsor. The two parcels, totaling 0.55257, are located at the southwest corner of Md. Rt. 31 and Slingluff Lane. A waiver was granted to rezone the property from agricultural to low-density residential.

◆ Grant award. Accepted 3-0 an Emergency Shelter grant award of \$44,643 for federal fiscal year 2007 on behalf of the Department of Citizen Services to fund homeless prevention services.

◆ Child support enforcement. On two separate votes, approved 3-0 the Child Support Enforcement Grant agreements for the Sheriff's Office and the State's Attorney's Office for Fiscal Year 2008.



Photo courtesy of Spatial Systems Associates

This vehicle with a camera mounted on top will be traveling through Carroll County, beginning Dec. 3, to verify addresses and gather other pertinent data.

Tree-lighting ceremony set for Dec. 5th

Dancers and musicians will help to celebrate the holiday season on Dec. 5 during the annual tree-lighting ceremony at the County Office Building.

This year's 22-foot Norway spruce was donated by the family of Thomas and Joan Shaw of Finksburg. Their tree was chosen from among 30 offers across the county.

The selection committee included David Pyatt, a member of the county's Environmental Advisory Council; Vicki Luther, a forest conservation specialist; and Jim Slater, environmental compliance officer.

Members of the county's Facilities Bureau cut down the tree from the Shaws' yard and placed it in a custom-built stand within the large fountain in front of the County Office Building.

Providing entertainment for the evening will be Westminster Elementary School's fifth-grade orchestra and band, under the direction of Mr. Brian Thompson.

If you want to attend

What: Annual tree-lighting ceremony

Where: Outside the County Office Building at 225 N. Center St., Westminster

When: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5

The band will be followed by students from the Westminster Ballet Theatre, who will perform selections from their production of "The Nutcracker." Janette Sullivan is the school's artistic director.

Cookies and hot chocolate will be available, thanks to a generous donation by Westminster Ridge Retirement community.

Mr. Herb Wyatt helped to arrange a visit that evening by Santa Claus.

The public is welcome to attend.

Data collection project launches

To improve services for residents, Carroll County Government is undertaking a data-collection project.

Spatial Systems Associates of Columbia, Md., will gather information on street centerlines and features, building locations, addresses, access roads and driveways.

As part of this process, Spatial Systems will be driving around the county with a camera-equipped vehicle to verify addresses. The firm will not enter private property, nor will any photographs of residences be made public.

The project begins Monday, Dec. 3. The information that is collected will be used by planning, public safety and other county agencies. The data will provide answers to queries and support a host of analytical functions and applications across multiple county agencies.

Anyone with questions about the project can contact the county's chief information officer, Mark Ripper, at 410-386-2053.

Clear Path matches shovelers with snow-bound

Volunteers are needed to remove snow and ice for isolated older adults throughout Carroll County.

A Clear Path, a program of the Bureau of Aging, matches volunteers with seniors in need of assistance. Those receiving help must be county residents ages 60 or older; those with disabilities are eligible at age 50.

After the snow has stopped and streets have



been cleared, volunteers shovel walkways for others.

Church youth groups, Scouts, high school organi-

zations, or individual adults are invited to participate. An adult must supervise anyone younger than 18.

A brief training will be held for volunteers.

If you are interested in helping your community with snow and ice removal, please call the Bureau of Aging at 410-386-3800.

If your club, organization or church already provides this service, please let us know.

Votes *(continued from Page 2)*

◆ Copier lease. Approved 3-0 an agreement to lease a digital color copier from the Phillips Group for \$1,065.21 a month to be used by Production Distribution Services. The capability to complete jobs in-house that are currently sent to outside printers will offset the cost to lease the machine, as will a savings of

4 cents per page over the current lease agreement.

◆ Water tank. Agreed 3-0 to transfer \$20,000 from the Solid Waste Reserve for Contin-gency to purchase a 30,000-gallon fire sup-pression tank for the Northern Landfill Main-tenance Building, rather than the 20,000-gallon tank originally specified, in order to serve other facilities in the Northern Landfill.

The tank will be purchased from Tanks Direct for \$100,000, including installation.

◆ Scalehouse at Northern Landfill. On a 3-0 vote, awarded EMH Environmental Inc. an \$88,880 contract to remove and replace the scalehouse at the Northern Landfill.

◆ Housing rehabilitation. Approved 3-0 to participate in the FY08 Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program.

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, DECEMBER 5

2:30 p.m. Zoning Administration Variance Hearings – Room 124C

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

7 p.m. Board of County Commissioners' quarterly meeting with mayors – Room 003

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners and Allied Agencies submit 2008 Legislative Proposals to the Carroll County Delegation – Room 003

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

More county news at
ccgovernments.org
or watch CCG 24 TV!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

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 on proposed amendments to Chapter 44, Pensions and Retirement

Law Enforcement Enhancements – Room 311

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

1:30 p.m. Animal Matters Board of Appeals hearing – Room 003

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

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, DECEMBER 19

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

9 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

9 a.m. Technical Review Committee – Room 003

MONDAY & TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24-25

County offices closed in observance of Christmas

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

County offices closed in observance of New Year's

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Commissioners
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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