

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008



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

County preserves 50K acres of ag land

Carroll County reached a major milestone in its nationally acclaimed agricultural land preservation program in 2007.

At the end of the year, more than 50,000 acres had been protected. With the addition of the largest parcel to date on Dec. 27, the total acreage stood at 51,595.

Commissioners have long held the belief that the ag preservation program not only maintains Carroll's heritage, but also prevents the need for further costly infrastructure, such as roads and schools. Since 1980, the goal has been to protect 100,000 of the county's 289,920 acres.

The county officially hit the halfway mark on Nov. 15, 2007, with the settlement on a 192-acre farm north of Westminster and owned by the Shirley family.

Four programs — federal, state and local — contribute to the preservation efforts. At the federal level is funding from the Farmland Protection Act. The State of Maryland funds both a Rural Legacy program and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. And Carroll offers its own easements, setting aside \$10.8 million this year.

Snowed out



Kelly Strine/Office of Public Information

Snow blankets the County's holiday tree in front of the County Office Building. While beautiful, the weather forced the cancellation of the tree-lighting ceremony. This year's tree was donated by Thomas and Joan Shaw of Finksburg.

State of County set for January

The Board of County Commissioners will present the annual State of the County address on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Each year, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce invites the Commissioners to speak to its members about timely issues facing the county. The fiscal health of Carroll also will be discussed.

As in past years, the Commissioners will meet with members of the current Leadership Carroll class to answer questions after the luncheon.

The event will take place at noon at Martin's Westminster, in the 140 Village Shopping Center, beginning. For ticket information, contact the Chamber at 410-848-9050.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- *The Board of County Commissioners voted this fall to form a county police force, instead of relying on a combination of resident troopers and sheriff's deputies.*
- *A unified law enforcement system will mean the fastest response possible for residents. Currently, the closest officer is not necessarily the one dispatched to help.*
- *Under the current arrangement, in addition to paying the full cost of the Resident Trooper Program, Carroll County pays another 20% in indirect costs.*

Long-term drug treatment center nearly ready

A national firm with 38 years experience treating substance abuse has been selected to run the new Carroll County Long-Term Treatment Facility.

Spectrum Health Systems of Massachusetts will soon be helping people with addictions at the Sykesville center.

The decision to award the contract to Spectrum was announced at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 17th.

Construction of the \$3 million facility began in July 2006 on the grounds of the Springfield Hospital Center. The County has a 30-year lease with the State for the land on which the building sits. Carroll paid \$2 million, with the rest covered by a state grant.

The need for a treatment facility became obvious in 2000, when Carroll saw its 10th death attributed to heroin in less than four years. Working in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Carroll County's Department of Citizen Services developed a plan to provide a level of service not currently available.

As many as 48 patients will be able to stay in the center at any one time. Most will come from within Carroll County. Much of the cost to operate is expected to come from insurance billing.

Officials hope to have the new facility operating by early spring.



Photos by the Office of Public Information

Above, the new Long-Term Treatment Facility in Sykesville is ready to open. At left, cutting the ribbon for the new center on December 17th are Dr. Peter Luongo, director of Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration; County Commissioners Julia W. Gouge and Michael D. Zimmer; and Sue Doyle, chief of the Carroll County Health Department's Bureau of Addictions.

Nominate someone for 2008 Environmental Awareness Awards

Do you know someone who has made an extra effort toward improving the environment in your neighborhood? Is a local business setting an example as a steward of the land?

The Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council wants to recognize the people and businesses in the community that are taking care of the environment. Nominations are being accepted now through March 1, 2008, for the 2008 Environmental Awareness Awards.

Recognition will be given in each of five categories:



Individual – to honor any individual who has made a difference in instituting or forwarding environmental thought and action;

Institutional/Education – to honor any institution for similar efforts;

Agricultural – to honor any farmer/resident for similar efforts;

Business/Industry – to be awarded to any private or corporate sector that took action that resulted in the betterment of the environment;

Student – to honor any student that has made a difference in instituting or forwarding thought and action for

the betterment of the environment.

The EAC encourages nominations be made electronically (to minimize impact on the environment). Nomination forms and a complete list of criteria are available online at <http://ccgovernent.carr.org/ccg/eac>.

Hard copies can be sent by fax, 410-386-2594, or by mail to Environmental Awareness Awards, c/o Office of Environmental Compliance, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157.

Anyone with questions about the award should contact Kim Petry through the Office of Environmental Compliance by calling 410-386-2756.

Votes made, actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners in December

DECEMBER 6

◆ Training grant. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) a grant application to the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) for the Office of Risk Management's compliance specialist to attend a training seminar, Principles of Occupational Safety and Health. The total cost of the seminar, lodging, travel and meals, \$1,759.25, would be covered by the grant.

◆ Code amendments. Voted 2-0 to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments to the Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances affecting two chapters: Chapter 71, Adequate Public Facilities and Concurrency management, and Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land.

DECEMBER 13

◆ Bond claim. Voted 3-0 to sign a letter to PNC Bank to claim a bond set to expire on Dec. 31, 2007, for the Cranberry Hill subdivision. The developer has failed to complete landscaping obligations required by the public works agreement, and the County needs to claim the bond to complete the work.

◆ Drug court. Granted approval 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich abstained) to develop an application for an Adult Drug Court discretionary grant from the U.S. Department of Justice program. Funds would provide support for adult participants who are homeless or in unstable housing.

DECEMBER 20

◆ Transportation plan. On a 3-0 vote, approved the fiscal year 2009 annual transportation plan, which outlines Carroll Area Transit System's budget.

◆ Library funds. Voted 3-0 to transfer \$369,164 in unused funding from the Carroll County Public Library's fiscal year 2007 budget into the library's 2008 budget.

◆ Senior meals. Approved 3-0 two separate contracts to Meals on Wheels of Baltimore to provide meals for the elderly Nutrition Program. The first contract, for \$89,436, is for meals provided five days a week at each of the county's five senior centers. The other contract, for \$88,340, is for meals delivered to participants' homes.

◆ Records management. Voted 3-0 to award Unity Business Systems a contract to help County Government implement a document/records management system. The total cost for the six-year project is \$439,000. The project's two parts are: to scan historical information currently contained in more than 625 filing cabinets, and to place records into the retention system from this point forward.

◆ Snowden Run Pumping Station. On two separate 3-0 votes, approved a transfer of \$130,000 and awarded a contract for emergency renovations to the Snowden Run Pumping Station. The facility was scheduled to be renovated in fiscal year 2010, but temporary measures failed to

Meetings

⇒ The Board of County Commissioners typically holds regular, open sessions on Thursdays. Meetings are streamed live on the county's web site, <http://ccgovernent.carr.org>. Click on Video Library & Archives.

⇒ Residents who want to speak to the board can attend Open Community Time every other Thursday at 9:30 a.m. or go to any of the Commissioners' evening community meetings.

keep the dry well free of groundwater. The transfer and money already allocated to engineer the repairs should cover the \$350,000 project.

◆ Drug court. Approved 3-0 an application for an Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant to the U.S. Department of Justice for up to \$200,000 over two years. The state would add another \$66,820. Those funds would help to support adult drug court participants who are homeless or in unstable housing when released from jail.

◆ Substance abuse treatment. On a 3-0 vote, approved an application for Year Three of the Substance Abuse Treatment Jail Diversion Program. The final year of funding through the Governor's Office will provide inpatient treatment for 30 non-violent drug offenders as an alternative to incarceration.

◆ Rental assistance. Voted 3-0 to accept up to \$20,000 in state grant funding for the rental allowance program.

◆ Impact fee waiver. Adopted 3-0 an amendment to the county's code giving County Commissioners the authority to waive development impact fees for nonprofit groups, projects that create workforce and affordable housing, or similar projects offering a similar public purpose.

◆ Emergency plans. Approved 3-0 the Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation plans. The Emergency Operations Plan establishes roles and responsibilities of agencies during emergencies. The Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as a guide for committing resources to reduce the effects of hazards.

DECEMBER 27

◆ Agricultural land preservation. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer was absent) to purchase a 288.25-acre easement from H. Morton Rosen, on Middleburg Road, for \$2.4 million.

Sign up for free course to serve on Community Emergency Reserve Team

Residents are invited to register for a free 20-hour Community Emergency Reserve Team course.

Classes start this month and will be offered again several times throughout the year.

Participants learn about home and workplace preparedness, fire safety, medical op-



erations, and emergency preparedness information. All graduates also receive a CERT backpack full of emergency essentials.

The class is offered by the Carroll County Citizen Corps Council, of which the Office of Public Safety Support Services is a part.

To register or for more information, call emergency management planner Chrissy Calp at 410-386-2296, or email her at ccalp@ccg.carr.org.

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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

County offices closed for New Year's Day

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

9:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

3:30 p.m. Public workshop: proposed amendments to Chapter 71, Adequate Public Facilities, and Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land (sunset provision) – Room 105

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

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, JANUARY 9

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

Airport gets new number

The Carroll County Regional Airport has a new telephone number. Anyone trying to reach the airport should call 410-876-9885, effective immediately.

The change is the latest step in the County's ongoing move toward a more active administrative presence at the airport.

Last spring, a restructuring of operations began in an effort to fully recognize the facility's economic potential. Since then, the Commissioners began a search for an airport manager, hired a second airport coordinator, and revised the county's arrangement with one of its two fixed base operators. Interviews for the manager position are expected later this month.

Email your commissioners

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org

Not sure who to contact?

Email PublicComments@ccg.carr.org

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

Drive, Westminster

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
8 a.m. Plumbing Advisory Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster
Noon Board of County Commissioners speak at annual Chamber of Commerce State of the County Luncheon – Martin's Westminster

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

9 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and

allied agencies – Room 003

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

1:30 p.m. Public hearing: proposed amendments to Chapter 71, Adequate Public Facilities, and Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land (sunset provision) – Room 311

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

9 a.m. Public hearing on proposed legislation, held by the Carroll County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly – Room 003

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

County offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

9 a.m. Technical Review Committee – Room 003
6 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

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.



CARROLL COUNTY

a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play