

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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APRIL 2008



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

2009 budget process delayed

Because of uncertainty surrounding the Maryland state budget for fiscal year 2009, and the effect it will have on Carroll County's finances, the Board of County Commissioners has revised the timeline for work on the upcoming county budget.

Staff from the Department of Management and Budget will present a recommended spend-

ing plan to the Commissioners during meetings Wednesday, April 9, through Friday, April 11.

After hearing requests from agencies the County funds, Commissioners will hold work sessions to develop their proposed budget.

The Board of County Commissioners will officially un-


veil the proposed budget at a press conference at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29th.

A public hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13th, at Carroll Community College's Scott Center.

More work sessions will be held after the public hearing before the budget is adopted the last week of May.

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ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Office of Public Information

Anirban Basu of the Sage Policy Group talks to more than 200 business and community leaders at the annual presentation on the region's economic outlook for 2008, held March 26. The Carroll County Department of Economic Development has held the event for the past seven years, with help from local sponsors. This year's presentation can be web-streamed from the [County's web site](http://www.carrollbiz.org) or downloaded in PDF format from www.carrollbiz.org.

Public invited to open house on airport study

Members of the public are invited to attend an open house to learn about an environmental assessment being conducted for Carroll County Regional Airport's proposed expansion.

Project team members will be on hand from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, April 21, in Room 003 of the County Office Building, 225 N. Center Street in Westminster.

Residents can ask questions about the airport's master plan, its purpose, environmental considerations, and the need for the study. Exhibits will be available for review, as well.

The meeting is the first in a series to be held during the environmental assessment study to provide information, answer questions from the public, and receive input and feedback on the project.

Before any of the proposed improvements can be made to the airport, an environmental review is required.

The assessment will evaluate the effects of a proposed runway on 18 categories, including air quality, wildlife, noise, water quality, and wetlands.

For more information, visit <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/airport/EA>.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Department of Recreation and Parks has moved to the newly renovated Robert Moton Center at 300 S. Center Street, Room 229.
- Telephone numbers for Recreation and Parks employees have not changed. They can be reached at 410-386-2103.
- The department's 2008 Summer Program Guide will be released this month. Look for an electronic version on the county's web site and printed editions in the April 8th Carroll County Times.

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

MARCH 6

◆ **Rural Legacy easements.** Agreed 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase easements on the following properties: an Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy easement on 112.48 acres of land on Carrollton Road, Upperco, owned by Elmer & Patricia Durham for \$850,000; and a Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy easement on 93.72 acres of land on Sams Creek Road, New Windsor, owned by Brian & Mary Jane Chapline for \$458,600. Grant money from the State will be used to secure both easements.

◆ **Vehicle/equipment purchases.** Approved the following purchases on separate 3-0 votes: one new 4WD service body mechanic's service truck from RMS of Westminster for \$91,907 to be used by Fleet Management; one 2008 Ford Expedition SSV to be used by the Carroll County Health Department from Hetrich Fleet Services with \$25,592 in funds from a Homeland Security Grant; and one John Deere 544J loader to be used by the Roads Department from Standard Equipment Co. for \$149,260 using a contract established by Montgomery County.

◆ **Youth Service Bureau.** Voted 3-0 to approve the completion of an environmental review for the new Youth Services Bureau facility before the project breaks ground. A review is required to apply for a Community Development Block Grant.

MARCH 13

◆ **Drug treatment court.** Approved 3-0 a grant application for fiscal year 2009 Drug Treatment Court funding from the Maryland Office of Problem Solving Courts. The grant request is for \$186,874, with a cash match of \$28,968 and an in-kind match of \$369,526 from the County, for a total program cost of \$585,368.

◆ **Public safety grant.** Accepted 3-0 a \$3,600 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant from the Maryland Emergency Manage-

ment Agency. The grant provides travel expenses for two county public safety representatives to attend the national UASI conference.

◆ **Bid approval.** Awarded 3-0 a contract to National Supply Inc. for \$73,521.87 to provide janitorial supplies and other related products.

◆ **John Owings Landfill.** Voted 3-0 to approve a change order to Maryland Environmental Services for the 2006 John Owings Landfill site evaluation work plan in the amount of \$35,372. MES requested modifications to the original plan, resulting in: deeper monitoring wells (200 feet rather than the original 25 to 50 feet), more extensive groundwater sampling, and additional gas monitoring probes.

◆ **Geographic information systems.** Approved 3-0 a \$29,306 contract with KCI Technologies to determine the most effective and cost-efficient way to implement an Enterprise Geographic Information System to be used by various county departments.

◆ **Tracking system.** Authorized 3-0 an annual contract with Accela Inc. that is not to exceed \$62,660 per year for the next nine years and covers support, maintenance, and upgrades to the land management and permits system.

MARCH 20

◆ **Wind energy systems.** Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with a draft amendment to the zoning ordinance that would set minimum standards to accommodate small wind energy systems.

◆ **Union Mills property.** Voted 3-0 to exercise an option to pur-

chase the Rickell property, consisting of 17.34 acres of land to be part of the Union Mills Reservoir Project.

◆ **Capital funds transfers.** On separate 3-0 votes, approved the following budget transfers for Public Works projects: a total of \$237,627.30 from completed 2006 and 2007 projects to the

2008 Neighborhood Overlays project; and \$156,263.31 from the completed 2007 project to the 2008 Low Volume Roads project.

◆ **Bid approvals.** Awarded the following contracts on separate 3-0 votes: \$1,158,160.75 to Richard F. Kline Inc. for hot mix asphalt overlay of five roads totaling 5.75 miles; \$1,120,845 to Roy C. Kline to construct a one-story addition to and renovations of the Taneytown Library; letter of intent to purchase 14 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors in FY09 for \$307,510 through a State of Maryland contract from Miller Brother Ford; commissary services for the Carroll County Detention Center to Keefe Supply Co. that provides for a 29 percent commission to Carroll County; \$55,435 to Environmental Quality Resources LLC for 2008 mitigation projects, including planting trees to meet forest conservation requirements for Agricultural Center projects and PAPI lights at the airport.

◆ **Gateway tax credit.** Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with an ordinance regarding the Gateway Tax Credit that is designed to encourage local business and property owners to invest in making their facilities more visually appealing.

MARCH 27

Emergency medical services. On

a 3-0 vote, agreed to the broad, general concept of the Volunteer Emergency Services Association's draft Future of EMS plan. The vote was not an endorsement of the details of the plan.

Self-help parks projects. Approved 3-0 funding totaling \$20,930 for the following self-help projects, awarded to recreation councils, as recommended by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board:

Arts Council—\$896 for installation of a water heater and plumbing at the Carroll Arts Center; Charles Carroll—\$1,610 for bleachers and ball diamond mix at a field at Charles Carroll Elementary School; North Carroll—\$1,908 for ball diamond mix on Christmas Tree Park Field C, \$954 for mix at Field D, \$1,908 for mix at a field at Manchester Elementary School, \$954 for mix at a North Carroll Middle School field, and \$2,916 for mix at a Hampstead Elementary School field; Piney Run—\$3,140 for construction of a foot bridge in Piney Run Park; Westminster Area—\$1,623 for mats and a training bar at Carroll Gymnastics Center; and Winfield—\$5,021 for ball diamond mix at Mayeski Park.

Truck purchase. On a 3-0 vote, awarded a bid for \$108,396.03 for a new service body mechanic's service truck from RMS of Westminster. The vehicle will replace a 1994 model at the Northern Landfill.

Reverse 911. Approved 3-0 to upgrade the existing Reverse 911© system, using a \$45,200 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The upgrade will allow Carroll County's system to work with neighboring jurisdictions to send emergency messages to relevant homes and businesses, regardless of county lines. It will also allow authorized users to send messages from remote locations, and will increase the number of calls that can be made each minute.

Watch videos of discussions and decisions

All Board of County Commissioners' public meetings

from the past year can be viewed online. Go to

ccgovernment.carr.org and click Video Library & Agendas.

New corporate headquarters to locate in Eldersburg

GSE Systems announced last month that it would be relocating its corporate headquarters to Eldersburg.

GSE Systems Inc., a leading global provider of real-time simulation and training solutions to the power, process, manufacturing and government sectors, will move from its current facility in Baltimore beginning this month.

GSE Systems employs more than 150 people worldwide, with offices in China, Sweden, and Atlanta, in addition to the corporate headquarters. The move is based largely on the company's growth expectations.

GSE Systems plans to move to the former London Fog headquarters at 1332 Londontown Blvd. More than 85 people work at the company's headquarters. Growth plans project a significant number of new jobs in engineering and administrative positions over the next several years. The move will provide the firm with addi-



tional space in which to grow.

"The Carroll County Economic Development office was instrumental in our decision to move to the Eldersburg facility," said John V. Moran, GSE's chief executive officer.

"The Eldersburg area was recently rated among the top 100 places to live in America by Money Magazine, and that made the move very attractive to our employees. Our move will occur in phases beginning in April and is expected to be fully implemented by July 31, 2008."

Carroll County's director of Economic Development, Lawrence Twele, praised the management team of GSE in this decision.

"It is an honor to welcome GSE and its employees to Carroll County. The decision to locate in Eldersburg reflects a confidence in our local market in terms of quality real estate product and amenities, skilled workforce and infrastructure. We are confident that GSE has made the right location choice and are looking forward to helping them grow and prosper," Twele said.


GSE Systems Inc. provides training simulators and educational solutions. The company has more than three decades of experience, over 343 installations, and 100 customers in more than 40 countries.

The firm's software, hardware and integrated training solutions leverage proven technologies to deliver real-world business advantages to the energy, process, manufacturing and government sectors worldwide. Information about GSE Systems is available via the Internet at www.gses.com.

TRAILS & MORE

Office of Public Information

Carroll County's nature centers offer many opportunities for hikers and others who want to explore nature this spring. Call the Bear Branch Nature Center at 410-848-2517 or Piney Run Park Nature Center at 410-795-6043 to see what programs are coming up that may interest you.



Read 'Connection' online

If you would like to know when a new edition of Carroll County Government's monthly "County Connection" is posted online, sign up for our email notification service.



Each month, you will receive an email with a link to the latest edition. This keeps you from having to deal with large attachments that can clog up your inbox.

To subscribe to this free service, go to <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/pubinfo>.

County Government Week will highlight ways Carroll protects children

What do county governments do to protect their children? Find out during National County Government Week, which runs from April 6-12 this year.



Throughout the week, the fo-

cus will be on ways county government works to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of children.

Local radio station WTTR (AM1470) will run an on-air trivia contest with prizes. Questions will relate to county programs and services for children. In addition,

each day there will be a different display in the lobby of the County Office Building featuring Department of Citizen Services programs administered by the Local Management Board. Visitors to the display can enter to win a gift basket.

In a partnership with Carroll

County Public Schools, employees from the Department of Recreation and Parks will visit fourth-graders at Manchester, Sandymount, and William Winchester elementary schools.

For more information about National County Government Week, call 410-386-2973.

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, APRIL 2

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

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, APRIL 9

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners work session on staff-recommended budget – Room 311
10:30 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

8 a.m. Plumbing Advisory Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster
9 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
11 a.m. Public hearing on the Bureau of Housing Streamlined Plan for Fiscal Year 2008 – Room 311
1 p.m. Board of County Commissioners work session on staff-recommended budget – Room 311
6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners work session on staff-recommended budget – Room 311

MONDAY, APRIL 14

9 a.m. Board of County Commissioners agency meeting on budget – Room 311
1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of

Email your commissioners

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org reaches all three.

Or email them individually to:

Julia Gouge - jgouge@ccg.carr.org

Dean Minnich - dminnich@ccg.carr.org

Michael Zimmer - mzimmer@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!

Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster
7 p.m. Board of County Commissioners agency meeting budget – Room 003

TUESDAY, APRIL 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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

1 p.m. Board of County Commissioners agency meeting on budget – Room 311

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10:30 a.m. Board of County Commissioners proposed budget work session – Room 311
2:30 Groundbreaking Ceremony for Carroll Community College Classroom #4 – 1601 Washington Road, Westminster

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

9 a.m. Board of County Commissioners proposed budget work session – Room 311

MONDAY, APRIL 21

7 p.m. Public open house for an environmental assessment of a proposed expansion at Carroll County Regional Airport – Room 003

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
9 a.m. Board of County Commissioners proposed budget work session – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

1 p.m. Joint meeting of Board of Education and County Commissioners – Room 311

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003
12:30 p.m. Master Electrical Exam & board meeting (General meeting, if needed, open after exam. Exam & grading of exam will be closed) – Room 124 C

MONDAY, APRIL 28

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

10 a.m. Unveiling of FY09 proposed budget – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

4 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council – Room 105

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