

# County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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## \$353 million budget adopted

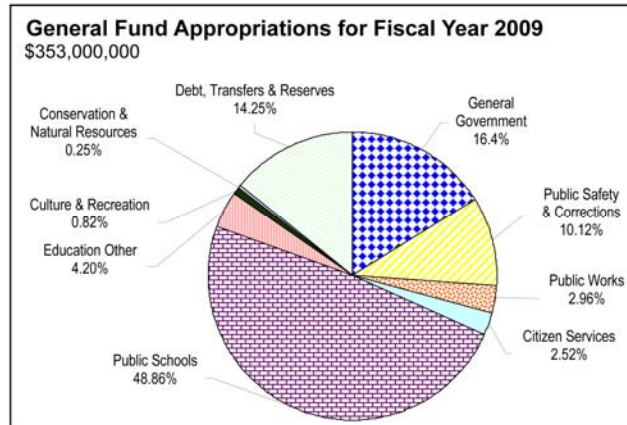
For the 13th year in a row, Carroll County's property tax rate remains unchanged with the Board of County Commissioners' passage of the latest spending plan.

For the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2008, the board adopted a \$353 million general fund. More than half (53 percent) is designated for education.

The real property tax rate will continue to be \$1.048 for every \$100 of assessed value. Property taxes will generate the largest source of revenue for the county.

Also approved during the May 27 Board of County Commissioners meeting were the \$134 million Community Investment Program, five enterprise funds, and special funds.

Enterprise funds are programs that support themselves



Source: Department of Management and Budget

financially, such as the Water and Sewer Fund.

Rates for water and sewer customers will rise slightly as of July 1. The average household will see a combined increase of between \$4 and \$6 a quarter. Connection charges for new customers also will increase.

Special funds include the pension trust, special revenues, other post-employment benefits, and grants.

Combined, all of the county's funds show a 7.47 percent decrease from the adjusted budget for current fiscal year 2008.

## Carroll first in state to allow small wind turbines

Carroll County residents who want to reduce their electricity bills can now harness energy using small wind systems.

The Board of County Commissioners voted May 6 to allow such systems in all zoning districts, as long as certain requirements are met.

It is the first such vote in any Maryland county. In the weeks since, at least two counties have looked at developing similar proposals.

To be considered a small wind energy system, its capacity must be no more than 50

kilowatts and its tower cannot exceed 150 feet. The maximum height varies, depending on the size of the property.

Anyone wishing to install a small wind energy system should contact the Carroll County Bureau of Permitting and Inspections at 410-386-2674.

The amendment includes several changes requested by residents during the workshop and public hearing process. They include: limiting a small wind energy system to a single tower; allowing no more than two systems on any property;

and clarifying that only those people who plan to sell excess energy back to the power grid must also get approval from the Maryland Public Service Commission.

To find out if there is enough air flow across a property to support a small wind energy system, or for information on the state's Windswept Grant Program that offers grants toward installation costs, contact the Maryland Energy Administration toll-free at 1-800-72-energy (723-6374). Information is available online at <http://www.energy.state.md.us>.

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

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- Wind farms in the United States have helped to avoid nearly 62 million pounds of pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.
- Maryland offers a tax credit for wind generation in commercial "green" buildings.
- Free copies of wind maps are available to residents who want to see if their land can sustain a wind turbine energy system.
- The State's Windswept grant program offers money for both residential and non-residential properties that are installing small wind energy systems.

Source: Maryland Energy Administration

## Bikers rally despite rain

More than half a dozen people turned out May 16 for Carroll County's first Bike to Work Rally, in spite of cool temperatures and heavy rains that morning.

During the event, Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer announced that bike racks have been ordered for the County Office Building and Courthouse to assist those looking for healthier, less expensive commutes.

The Baltimore area RideShare program and Carroll County Government sponsored the event. Participants received shirts, snacks, bicycle accessories, and were eligible for drawings for larger prizes.

Similar events were held across the region.



Photos by Office of Public Information

*A few bicyclists braved heavy rains and chilly temperatures on Friday, May 16th, for Bike to Work Day. In the photo above, Chris Rhoten prepares for his trip to the Northern Landfill, where he works, after a lunchtime event marking the day. At left is Jeff Keefer of the county's Environmental Compliance Office.*



## South Carroll center's groundbreaking set for June 4th

People driving down Mineral Hill Road in Eldersburg will see construction equipment as work begins on a new South Carroll Senior and Community Center.

The Board of County Commissioners will break ground on the 32,700-square-foot facility on Tuesday, June 4, at 1 p.m. The \$10 million center will include a gymnasium, as well as another approximately 25,000 square feet for activities.

A geothermal system will be used to heat and cool the center. Several other sustainable design

aspects will be incorporated into the building.

The Maryland Department of Aging has awarded two grants totaling \$600,000 toward the project.

Colimore Thoemke Architects Inc. began designing the center in May 2006 after several community meetings were held for input. Contractor Roy Kirby and Sons Inc. was awarded the bid for construction.

Once the new South Carroll Senior and Community Center opens, which is expected to be August 2009, the current center will be closed.

## Get free check of your car before leaving for vacation

Clogged air filters, dirty oil and under-inflated tires can cause your vehicle to run less efficiently and use more gas and oil.

So Carroll County Government, in cooperation with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the Maryland Department of the Environment, will offer a free

Clean Car Clinic on Sunday, June 8, from 11

a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Town Mall in Westminster.

Certified technicians from Precision Tune Inc. will be on hand to perform free quality inspections to ensure that passenger vehicles are operating efficiently – and cleanly. The technicians will be assisted by auto mechanic students from the Carroll County Career and Technology Center.

Certified technicians will check items such as tire pressure, fluid levels, and the condition of belts and hoses, and then provide a check list of recommendations. Owners can have any necessary repairs performed at the facility of their choice.

The Maryland Department of the Environment estimates that 30 percent of the emissions that pollute the air come from motor vehicles.

To schedule your 15-minute appointment, call 410-386-2973.



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

### MAY 1

◆ Mental health treatment for youth. Agreed 3-0 to approve a request from the Local Management Board to submit an application for the second year of a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention that would provide group therapy and psychiatric services for youth committed to the Department of Justice or who are at-risk for entering the DJS system.

◆ Fire equipment. Awarded 3-0 a contract for \$32,989 in Homeland Security grant funds to Mid Atlantic Fire and Air for two breathing air compressors and refill stations for the Manchester Volunteer Fire Department.

◆ Pipe rehabilitation. Voted 3-0 to award Abel Recon with a contract of up to \$40,000 for the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer and stormwater pipes using the cured-in-place pipe liner method.

◆ Stormwater management pond. On a 3-0 vote, awarded C. J. Miller an \$825,000 contract for the reconstruction of the stormwater management pond at the Air Business Center on Magna Way in Westminster.

◆ Rural Legacy easements. Agreed 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase an Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy easement on 60.33 acres of land at 2600 Patapsco Road, Finksburg, owned by Cleveland and Grace Bateman, for \$308,760.

◆ Rural Legacy grant. Voted 3-0 to approve the FY 2008 Rural Legacy grant agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the award of \$750,000 to Carroll County for the preservation of natural and cultural resources through the acquisition of conservation easements.

◆ Recreation and parks projects. Approved 3-0 total funding of \$20,930 for the following self-help projects: \$5,021 for ball diamond mix at Mayeski Park;

\$1,623 for equipment at the Carroll Gymnastics Center; \$3,140 for a foot bridge at Piney Run Park; \$1,908 for ball diamond mix at Manchester Elementary; \$954 for ball diamond mix at North Carroll Middle; \$2,916 for ball diamond mix at Hampstead Elementary; \$896 for a water heater at the Arts Council; \$1,610 for ball diamond mix and bleachers for Charles Carroll Elementary; \$1,908 for ball diamond mix at Christmas Tree Park Field C; and \$954 for ball diamond at Christmas Tree Park Field D.

### MAY 6

◆ Wind energy systems. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to 1) modify the amendment to reflect that a system will be considered abandoned after six consecutive months of being out of service, instead of after 12 months; and 2) adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning, that allow small wind energy systems.

### MAY 13

◆ Retirement benefits. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) to approve proposed amendments to Chapter 44, Pensions and Retirement, to create trust accounts to provide required funds to pay for certain health and welfare benefits for current and future retirees of Carroll County Government.

◆ Gateway Tax Credit. Adopted 2-0 proposed amendments to Chapter 209, Taxation, creating a tax credit that is designed to encourage eligible local business and property owners to invest in making facilities more visually appealing.

◆ Mental health services. After a public hearing, agreed 2-0 to support a capital funds application for \$800,000 by the Carroll County Youth Service Bureau to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program. The application does not require a county match.

◆ Grants Office. Agreed 2-0 to

authorize the Grants Office to register with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, allowing the submittal of electronic grant applications.

◆ Fiber network. Voted 2-0 to approve modifications to a contract with Skyline Network Engineering that transfers general contracting responsibilities to them for the remainder of the 110-mile fiber network project. The amount of the contract remains within the current budget for the project.

◆ Bridge. Awarded 2-0 a contract to C. J. Miller LLC in the amount of \$101,980.50 for the rehabilitation of a bridge on Sullivan Road over the West Branch of the Patapsco River.

### MAY 22

◆ Sludge dewatering facility. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) the transfer of funds between projects at the Hampstead Wastewater Treatment Plant. The money will move from the completed ultraviolet system renovation project to two other projects that are nearing completion: the Sludge Dewatering Facility and the Poly Aluminum Chloride Facility.

◆ Youth Service Bureau. Voted 2-0 to approve and sign environmental review documents required to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for the new Youth Services Bureau facility. The review resulted in a finding of no significant impact.

◆ Vehicle purchase. On a 2-0 vote, approved the purchase of two 1,000-gallon liquid anti-icing sprayers from GVM Inc. for \$19,952.30 that will be used by Roads Operations.

◆ Weatherization. Awarded 2-0 a \$100,000 contract to Maryland Energy Conservation to provide weatherization assistance to qualified low-income homeowners.

◆ Technology services. Approved 2-0 the purchase of an

AVST Voice Mail System from Verizon for \$88,021.83 off the State of Maryland contract. This system will replace the original one that was purchased in 1998.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Voted 2-0 to purchase one commercial front-loading refuse truck from Waste Equipment Sales for \$179,248.

### MAY 27

◆ Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. Voted 3-0 to adopt a budget that includes \$353 million in general operating costs. Also approved were the \$134 million Community Investment Program, five enterprise funds, and special funds. Combined, total funds show a 7.47 percent decrease from the adjusted fiscal year 2008 budget.

◆ Property tax rate. Adopted 3-0 the 2009 property tax rate of \$1.048 per \$100 of assessed value, which has remained unchanged for 13 years.

◆ Water and sewer rates. On a 3-0 vote, adopted a resolution that changes the rates for water and sewer customers as of July 1.

◆ Water and sewer master plan. Agreed 3-0 to close the public hearing and approve amendments to the Water and Sewerage Master Plan

◆ Housing grant. Approved 3-0 an application for grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the Family Self Sufficiency Program. The program provides services for participating Section 8 housing recipients to enable them to become economically self sufficient.

◆ Public library projects. On separate 3-0 votes, awarded the following contracts: \$32,959.05 to Delta Telephone and Cabling Inc. to move the telephone system from the current Public Library Headquarters to the new location at the Old New Windsor School; and \$214,235 to Liberty Systems for the purchase of furniture for the Finksburg Library branch.

# 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, JUNE 4

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 5

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003

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

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 9

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

## TUESDAY, JUNE 10

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, JUNE 11

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board) – Room 003

10:30 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging

More county news at [ccgovernment.carr.org](http://ccgovernment.carr.org) or watch CCG 24 TV!

Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 12

7:30 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105

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

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311

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

## TUESDAY, JUNE 17

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, JUNE 18

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

8:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 113

## THURSDAY, JUNE 19

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 23

9 a.m. Technical Review Committee – Room 003

## TUESDAY, JUNE 24

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

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

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

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

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

7:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Room 003

## THURSDAY, JUNE 26

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105

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

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 30

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

## Read 'Connection' online

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Email your commissioners

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Not sure who to contact?

Email: [PublicComments@ccg.carr.org](mailto: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*

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