

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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

Police ordinance put on hold

Over the coming months, a task force will develop a plan outlining how Carroll County should proceed with its transition to a county police force.

By a 2-1 vote on Aug. 7, the Board of County Commissioners decided to delay any action on an ordinance that would establish such a force.

The commissioners said a professional task force should be formed to create the plan for the eventual creation of a po-

lice department.

Currently, Maryland State Police provides law enforcement for the unincorporated areas of Carroll County. For the past nine years, the Sheriff's Office has provided supplemental law enforcement services.

Under previous MSP superintendents, the availability of resident troopers was uncertain, as the state agency decides whether the program fits

within its mission. That left Carroll County officials to consider what direction the future of policing should ultimately take.

If the ordinance creating a county police force is put in place before 2011, its passage would rest with registered voters.

Information about this issue is available at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/ccpd>.

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Is your family prepared for an emergency?

Make a plan. Build a kit. Stay informed.

That is the advice of the Carroll County Emergency Management staff. September marks National Preparedness Month, but the advice rings true year round.

Every family should have an emergency plan. It should answer these key questions:

~How will family members communicate with each other if we become separated? Have you designated someone outside Carroll County who everyone can check in with when they are safe?

~What do we need to do if we're told to shelter in place?

~What route would we take if we must evacuate? Where would we go?

Consider any special needs or medical requirements. And don't forget your pets. They need water and food, and many



Tornadoes can strike in Carroll County, as seen by this damage in Gamber from a July 1996 twister.

shelters will not allow them to be brought in.

If you've lived through a bad winter storm, you have sheltered in place. That requires having all the supplies your family will need to get through several days without electric or telephone service. Roads could be closed for several days.

You may use the same items if you need to evacuate:

◆ Water—a gallon per person

(and pet) per day

◆ Non-perishable food—think about how to open and heat without power

◆ Radio and flashlight—bring extra batteries for both

Stay informed. Know the hazards in your area, and pay attention to weather forecasts.

For more information, go to www.readyssetgood.org or call the county's Emergency Management staff at 410-386-2455.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Emergency responders may call your home with a recorded message about a weather or police emergency in your area. Please listen to these alerts, known as Reverse 911.
- If you or someone you know has a special need that requires extra assistance during a major natural disaster, please consider registering with the Office of Public Safety so rescuers can help to meet those needs. All information is kept confidential. Call Christina at 410-386-2296 for more information.
- Learn more at the annual Emergency Preparedness Expo on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Winters Mill High School in Westminster.

Carroll County enters online world of social media

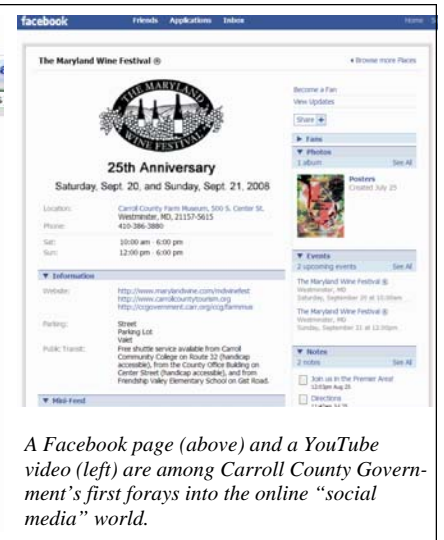
In today's ever-evolving digital age, getting information to people requires employing new methods.

In recent years, Carroll County Government began a free service to email subscribers to let them know when job postings, bid opportunities, press releases, and other web pages were updated. At the same time, visitors to the County's web site could begin watching the Board of County Commissioners deliberate through live web-streaming or at their convenience with video archives.

Now that millions of Americans are turning to social media web services, the County is looking at ways the technology can help to reach residents, potential visitors, and more.

In August, two new projects were launched. The first provides up-to-date information on The Maryland Wine Festival's 25th anniversary events using a page on Facebook. Facebook boasts 100 million users, although only those who are 21 or older can become "fans" of the wine festival page.

Fans sign up to receive updates of new



A Facebook page (above) and a YouTube video (left) are among Carroll County Government's first forays into the online "social media" world.

information. Check out the page [online](#) or by going to www.facebook.com and searching for The Maryland Wine Festival.

The second new project is a staff-produced video about Carroll County that has been posted on YouTube. Just under 10 minutes

long, the video is narrated by Commissioner Dean L. Minnich and has appearances by both Commissioners Julia W. Gouge and Michael D. Zimmer. It can be viewed by clicking [here](#) or going to www.YouTube.com and searching for Carroll County, MD.

4th annual Seniors on the Go Expo scheduled for Sept. 17th

Seniors and caregivers from across Carroll County are invited to attend the fourth annual "Seniors on the Go Expo" on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

The Expo focuses on the needs and interests of older adults, their families and caregivers. Last year's event drew more than 800 participants.

This year 120 exhibitors will be in attendance. Take this opportunity to learn about the programs, products and services available for older residents and their loved ones. Exhibitors include financial planners, travel agencies, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, home care providers, home improvement contractors, and more.

The Center for the Study of Aging at McDaniel College will present seminars on the follow-



Courtesy of the Bureau of Aging
Visitors to the 2007 Seniors on the Go Expo gather information and visit with friends at the Shipley Arena.

ing topics: "Living with Arthritis" beginning at 9:15 a.m.; "Guarding Against Scams and Identity Theft," (10 a.m.); "Protecting Your Rights for Future Health Care" (10:45 a.m.); and "Alzheimer's – How

will be offered again this year. If you are in need of free care for your loved one so you can attend the expo, Family & Children's Adult Day Services at West End Place may be able to assist you. West End Place

Can I Keep From Catching It?" (11:30 a.m.) All seminars are free.

Standard Delivery Jazz will perform at noon. Other entertainers include the Carroll County Cloggers and open line dancing.

Raffles and door prizes

provides medical adult day care for clients and is located at 7 Schoolhouse Avenue in Westminster. Call West End Place at 410-848-2433 ext. 221 one week in advance so paperwork can be completed.

This year's event will run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Shipley Arena of the Carroll County Ag Center. The center is located at 706 Agriculture Center off Gist Road in Westminster.

Shuttle service will be available from the Ag Center parking lot to the Shipley Arena throughout the day at no charge. There is no charge to attend the Expo and parking is free.

All senior centers in Carroll County and the Bureau of Aging will be closed the day of the event. For more information, please call 410-386-3800.

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

AUGUST 7

◆ County police force. Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, to postpone the adoption of Ordinance 50, which would create a county police force.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Carroll County Youth Services Bureau for \$194,178 to provide mental health consultation, training, and assessment for the Parents as Teachers Initiative.

◆ Housing bond allocation. Voted 3-0 to authorize \$5,067,595 in bonds to the State Department of Housing and Community Development's Maryland Mortgage Program, which promotes home ownership. The funds help Carroll residents to purchase homes.

◆ Aging services. Voted 3-0 to approve the 2009 update to the Area Plan for Aging, which is required by the State. The plan documents comprehensive services for older adults with the greatest economic and social needs, and includes budgets for those services.

◆ Airport. Approved 3-0 an \$11,546 grant with the Maryland Aviation Administration for phase two of the environmental assessment at the Carroll County Regional Airport, with a County match of \$11,547. In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration is providing \$438,750 in grants funds, for a total of \$461,843.

◆ Hampstead Industrial Exchange. On a 3-0 vote, approved a waiver of zoning for Hampstead Annexation No. 33 – Hampstead Industrial Exchange. The annexation area is comprised of several properties totaling 304.09 acres south of Houcksville Road and west of Route 30.

AUGUST 12

◆ Public housing report. Voted 3-0 to approve and sign the fiscal year 2008 Section 8 Management

Assessment Program report to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

◆ Public safety. On separate 3-0 votes, approved the transfer of existing funds for necessary upgrades to the 911 system: 1) \$1,534,468.10 for the replacement of channel banks at eight communication tower sites for the 911 Center; and 2) \$187,250 for the replacement of the computer server for the 911 Computer Aided Dispatch system.

◆ Public safety. Approved 3-0 a supplement of \$38,500 to the fiscal year 2009 Operating Budget for the New Windsor Fire Co. to house and operate the County's decontamination unit. The monthly cost is \$3,500 for the remaining 11 months of FY09.

◆ Farm Museum. Voted 3-0 to approve an amended contract for \$5,675 to include the addition of overhead doors at the Farm Museum Maintenance Building. The new total project cost is \$48,565.

◆ Robert Moton Center. Awarded 3-0 a \$140,930 contract to Ron Ruff Roofing to replace the lower roof on the Robert Moton Center.

AUGUST 21

◆ Parking space requirements. Agreed 3-0 to adopt proposed changes to parking space requirements for new or rehabilitated developments.

◆ Vehicle purchases. In two separate 3-0 votes, approved purchases from Bare Truck Center: one tandem axle dump truck for \$140,350; and four 10-ton single axle dump trucks for \$500,000.

◆ Computers. Voted 3-0 to purchase 180 Dell desktop computers for \$158,760 through a Western States Contracting Alliance contract. They will replace computers that are four to five years old.

◆ Regional growth. Voted 3-0 to approve an agreement with the Fort Meade Regional Growth Committee. Local jurisdictions in the region formed the committee to address what is expected to be substantial growth in jobs, population and households throughout the Fort Meade Region. This growth is due to Base Realignment and Closure and the effects of ongoing economic development.

◆ Public safety grant. Agreed 3-0 to accept a \$31,725 award from the Urban Area Security Initiative grant program. The funds will be used to perform maintenance and projects on Public Safety command vehicles. No county match is required.

◆ Emergency management. Approved 3-0 a change to the Emergency Management Performance Grant that increases the grant amount by \$8,820. This money will be used to pay a portion of the salary and benefits of Emergency Management staff. No additional County match funds are required.

◆ Medicaid waiver grant. Voted 3-0 to approve an application for a Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults FY09 grant for state and federal funds. The total program budget is \$193,062, including \$5,000 in County funds. The money provides services to low-income adults who are at least 50 years old. Carroll County has 88 participants.

AUGUST 28

◆ Grant application. On a 3-0 vote, pre-approved an application for \$112,552 in federal funds to provide housing services for 12 disabled homeless individuals. A county match of \$16,724 would be required if the grant is awarded.

◆ Year-end budget adjustments. Approved 3-0 to transfer funds to cover five bureaus that ended the year over budget. a) The Agricultural Land Preservation program's installment purchase agreements came in \$2,306,351 high than expected. The expense is offset by revenues transferred by the capital budget. b) At the Circuit Court, an increase in jury trials led to \$34,560 in additional time for bailiffs. c) \$11,775 was paid to the voluntary community services coordinator upon retirement. d) Record crowds at The Maryland Wine Festival meant a \$12,000 increase in fees paid by the Farm Museum to the Association of Maryland Wineries. The cost was more than offset by increased admissions revenue. e) Television production's purchase of equipment and hiring of an intern brought its budget in \$4,460 over what had been allotted.

◆ Climbing structure. Voted 3-0 to purchase climbing play equipment for \$36,000 from Recreation Resources of Kennett Square, Pa. The unit, with safety surfacing, will be installed at Bennett Cerf Park in Westminster.

◆ Mental health services. Voted 3-0 to accept a proposal from Correctional Mental Health Services of Baltimore to provide psychiatric evaluations and/or mental health services for people detained at the Carroll County Detention Center.

◆ Skid steer loader. Approved 3-0 the purchase of a new John Deere 328 skid steer loader from Standard Equipment Co. for \$40,357.42. It will be used by the Bureau of Roads Operations to replace an obsolete loader.

The Board of County Commissioners typically meets each Thursday in open session. For up-to-date meeting times and agendas, call 410-386-2043 or visit <http://ccgovernment.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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

County offices closed in observance of Labor Day

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
6:30 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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. Public workshop on proposed amendments to Chapter 93, Cable Television, and a proposed new Chapter 92, Cable and Other Utilities Rights of Way – Room 105

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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, SEPTEMBER 10

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners (liquor board) – Room 003
10:30 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 Drive, Westminster
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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, SEPTEMBER 17

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country

Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster
9 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 113

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 93, Cable Television, and a proposed new Chapter 92, Cable and Other Utilities Rights of Way – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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, SEPTEMBER 25

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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

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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.

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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