

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*

Road projects outlined

County Commissioners will present Maryland Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari with a list of priority projects when they meet this month.

Carroll County's top priority construction project is the reconstruction of Md. Route 140 between Sullivan Road and Market Street in Westminster. The project will address long-term capacity issues, improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians, and offer economic development benefits.

The No. 1 priority for engineering and right-of-way acquisition is along the Route 26 corridor from Route 32 to Carroll Highlands Road in Eldersburg. The county contributed \$1 million toward the project's design and engineering, which is 30 percent complete.

Four priority projects are listed in the "Project Planning Starts" category:

- ◆ Route 32 reconstruction from Interstate 70 to Route 26 in Eldersburg;

- ◆ Route 140 relocation at Taneytown;

- ◆ Route 30 relocation at Manchester; and

- ◆ Route 26 reconstruction from Route 32 to Route 97.

The commissioners moved

Continued on Page 2

TREATMENT PLANT PROGRESSES



Bureau of Building Construction

Work on an expanded Freedom Area Water Treatment Plant continues on the banks of Liberty Reservoir. The new facility is on schedule to open next Spring with the capacity to filter an additional 4 million gallons of water a day beyond the 3 million gallons currently treated there.

Library joins county's free email notification service

Carroll County Public Library and the Board of County Commissioners are pleased to announce the addition of library press releases, job openings, and newsletters to the County's free email subscription service.

Anyone with an email address can sign up to be notified when new information is posted on these Web pages.

They join a list of more than three dozen pages on the County's web site to which people can subscribe. When new information is made available on these pages, subscribers receive an email with a link to the update. Users choose whether they want instant, weekly or monthly updates.

Messages can be sent to peo-



ple according to their ZIP codes. (You can enter one for work and one for home, if you like.)

More than 900 people currently subscribe to Carroll County Government web pages. To sign up for this free service, or to add library pages to an existing account, go to either <http://ccgovernment.carr.org> or <http://library.carr.org> and click on the subscription icon.

Email subscription services are provided by GovDelivery, the leading provider of government-to-citizen communication solutions.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 70 percent of high school seniors in Carroll County in 2002-03 had consumed alcohol, and 43 percent had used a drug other than alcohol or tobacco, according to the Center for Substance Abuse Research.
- Fourteen percent of eighth-graders that year had used drugs other than alcohol or tobacco.
- If you want to learn how to connect with your teenager, come to "What Are They Thinking." The Board of County Commissioners is co-sponsoring this substance abuse awareness program with Junction Inc. The event takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Portico of St. John, 43 Monroe St. in Westminster. Call 410-848-6100 or 410-876-1788 for more information.

Sign up, pay online for recreation programs

Carroll County now can sign up and pay for Recreation and Park's program and trips online.

A new online registration website, <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/programguide>, allows people to view and register for programs.

Programs are searchable by category. The site lists an expanded description of each course or trip, prices, start dates, and the number of openings for each program.

Simply select the programs or trips for which you would like to register. Use your credit card to pay. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

If you do not have Internet access but wish to pay with a credit card,

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL http://www2.ccg.org/regist/recrep_reg/search.asp. The page title is "Carroll County Recreation and Parks Program Registration". The main heading is "Welcome to PROGRAM REGISTRATION". Below the heading is a search bar and a "Search" button. A sidebar on the left lists categories: Aquatics, Bear Branch Nature Center, Bus Trips, Cooking, Family, Health & Wellness, Home & Garden, Homeschool, Piney Run Nature Center, Pre-School, Specials, Therapeutic Recreation, and Youth. The main content area shows "Category/Search Results For: All Programs" and a table with columns: Add to Cart, Program ID, Program Title, Program Start Date, Cost, and Qty Available.

Add to Cart	Program ID	Program Title	Program Start Date	Cost	Qty Available
Add to Cart	BT218	"Big Apple" One Day Bus Trip	12/06/08	\$6.00	36
Add to Cart	FG190	"EEEEEEK"ology	11/06/08	3.00	17
Add to Cart	TR15	"Jingle Bell Hop"	12/12/08	5.00	49
Add to Cart	BB99	"Rhapsody in Blue" - Nature Photography with Middleton Evans	11/20/08	5.00	15
Add to Cart	BT194	"Wicked" at Night!	11/07/08	185.00	7
Add to Cart	TR16	"Wild Ones"	01/01/09	10.00	94
Add to Cart	BT225	"You're The One That I Want" Or Valentine's Day	02/14/09	135.00	21
Add to Cart	FG224	Aerobic Dancing	01/05/09	58.00	50
Add to Cart	FG209	AHHHH Spa	11/19/08	25.00	13
Add to Cart	PR228	All About Flying	01/27/09	2.00	24
Add to Cart	RR7R	All About Nature for Hnansehunders-Forest Floor	17/11/08	4.00	7

office at 410-386-2103, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The department still accepts registrations through the mail or in person. Send checks along with completed registration forms for each registrant to the Department of Recreation and Parks at its new location, 300 S. Center St., Westminster, MD 21157. Or stop by the office with a check, credit card or cash payments.

The online system was created by the Carroll County Department of Technology Services.

For more information about registration, call 410-386-2103 or visit the web site at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/recreation>.

you may phone in your registration by calling the Department of Recreation and Parks'

ccgovernment.carr.org/recreation.

Tree lighting to feature area musicians

Bring your family to watch the traditional holiday tree lighting outside the County Office Building.

This year's ceremony, slated for Thursday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., will feature two musical groups, refreshments, and a visit by Santa Claus.

Westminster Elementary School's fifth-grade band students will perform several selections. They will be under the direction of Brian Thompson.

Members of The Voices will sing holiday numbers as well. Ronald K. Douglass Sr. directs the Carroll County-based choral ensemble.

Light refreshments will be available that evening. Westminster Ridge Retirement Community is donating hot chocolate and cookies. Residents of Westminster Ridge also volunteered to serve the treats.

This is the fifth straight year that the Board of County Commissioners has put a holiday tree in front of the County Office Building.

Each year, community members offer to donate evergreens. The Environmental Advisory Council aids in the selection of the tree. Bureau of Facilities employees cut down the chosen tree and both place and deco-



Office of Public Information
The 2007 holiday tree (above) was donated by Thomas and Joan Shaw of Finksburg.

rate it in the fountain.

Last year's program was cancelled when snow closed schools early, forcing the young performers to stay home.

For information on this event, call the Office of Public Information at 410-386-2973.

Roads

(continued from Page 1)

the Taneytown project in front of the previous No. 2 priority, a relocation of Route 30 around Manchester. Funding for the Manchester project has been requested by the County for decades without success.

In the Oct. 30 unanimous vote to change its ranking, Commissioners said the relocation of Route 30 continues to be a priority and that the traffic issues there need to be addressed. The ongoing uncertainty of State funding, combined with potential economic development benefits of the Taneytown project, led to their decision to revise the priority listing.

The final category of projects to be presented to State officials is "Neighborhood Conservation." Carroll County's priorities are, in order:

- ◆ Route 140 corridor improvements from the Baltimore County line to Kays Mill Road;
- ◆ Route 31 revitalization of New Windsor's Main and High streets;
- ◆ Route 30 revitalization of Hampstead's Main Street; and
- ◆ Routes 75/77 truck route study in the communities of Union Bridge, Keymar, and Detour.

Commissioners, delegates, and town officials will meet with Department of Transportation officials on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 003 of the County Office Building.

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

OCTOBER 2

◆Town/County agreement. Approved 3-0 the fiscal year 2009 agreement with the Town of Hampstead, in which the county and town agree to the sharing of funds and participation in planning and other government functions. The agreement also includes a direct grant to the town for \$328,643, based on population.

◆Rental assistance. Voted 3-0 to apply for up to \$30,000 in state grant funding for the rental allowance program.

◆Bid approval. On a 3-0 vote, awarded Lee Hartman & Son a \$740,859 contract to install an audio-visual system for the new classroom building at Carroll Community College.

◆Bid approval. Approved 3-0 a contract with American Office for \$38,707.79 for wall partitions to be used in the new Human Resources office suite at the Carroll County Office Building.

◆Sprinkler requirements. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with proposed amendments to clarify sprinkler requirements for renovations and fire-damaged residential dwellings.

◆Environmental Advisory Council. Voted 2-1 (with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed) to proceed to public hearing with proposed changes to the bylaws for the Environmental Advisory Council, which would allow the EAC to choose a chair rather than the County Commissioners appointing one.

◆Annexation. On a 3-0 vote, denied a request for a change in zoning for the Bean Annexation in Taneytown. The annexation area consists of two parcels totaling 19.639 acres, which are located along the north side of MD 140 just west of Harney Road. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended against the zoning waiver.

OCTOBER 9

◆Town/County agreement. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) two separate FY09 agreements with the cities of Taneytown and Westminster, in which the County and municipalities agree to the sharing of funds and participation in planning and other government functions. The agreements also include direct grants – \$359,056 for Taneytown and \$802,324 for Westminster – that are based on the sizes of the municipalities.

◆Grant award. Accepted 2-0 a \$79,095 Violence Against Women Act grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to the State's Attorney's Office for salary and benefits for the domestic violence prosecutor.

◆Equipment purchases. On separate 2-0 votes, approved the following purchases: \$152,767 through a Montgomery County contract for one John Deere loader from Standard Equipment Co. to be used at the Northern Landfill; and \$72,990 to Folcomer Equipment for two brush chippers to be used by the Roads Bureau.

◆Change order. Authorized, by a 2-0 vote, the director of Public Works to sign a change order for an additional \$500,000 needed to cover the increased cost of liquid asphalt.

◆Water and sewer plan. Voted 2-0 to proceed to public hearing with four proposed amendments to the Master Plan for Water and Sewerage. The amendment was certified and recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission on Sept. 16.

◆Zoning maps. Agreed 2-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to zoning maps to reflect the rezoning of the Marriott property from agricultural to general business. The area consists of two parcels totaling 3.79 acres located at 100 West Old Liberty

Road in Sykesville.

OCTOBER 16

◆Relocatable classroom. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Gouge was absent) the transfer of \$98,875.67 to pay for a relocatable classroom building at the Career and Technology Center. The funds are left over from a completed project at Linton Springs Elementary School.

◆Airport grant. Accepted 2-0 a grant from the Maryland Aviation Administration to cover \$30,000 or up to 50 percent of the cost of two maintenance vehicles with snow plows and radio equipment at Carroll County Regional Airport.

◆Land acquisition. Agreed 2-0 to exercise an option to purchase a county-held land preservation easement on 214.9 acres at 527 Warfieldsburg Road, Westminster, from Richard W. and Eileen M. Soper for \$1,483,339.90 and to sign an installment purchase agreement.

◆County Health Plan. Voted 2-0 to approve the medical insurance rates for 2009. The contribution percentage remains the same, which means only a slight increase in employees' and retirees' shares of their health insurance premiums.

OCTOBER 21

◆Bond resolution. Voted 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing \$80 million in general obligation bonds. Money from the sale of the bonds will pay for previously approved capital projects and loans to volunteer fire companies.

◆Property tax exemptions. On a single 3-0 vote, approved eight requests totaling \$26,804.04 for property tax exemptions from nonprofit organizations for properties that benefit residents of the county. The exemptions were granted to: Silver Run-Union Mills Lions Club (\$1,352.48);

Freedom District Optimist Club (\$8335.08); Lineboro-Manchester Lions Club (\$5,981.98); Hampstead Lions Club (\$4,289.91); Middleburg Improvement Association (\$877.28); Terra Rubra Lions Foundation (\$1,393.84); Roaring Run Lions Club (\$2,487.95); and Taylorsville-Winfield Lions Club (\$2,085.52).

◆Police protection report. Approved 3-0 a report by the Sheriff's Office to be submitted to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention for consideration of a State Aid for Police Protection grant. The report outlines the FY08 actual expenditures and FY09 estimated expenditures for police protection from the Maryland State Police and the Sheriff's Office. The grant funds are used to provide police protection in subdivisions and municipalities.

OCTOBER 30

◆Zoning maps. Agreed 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to County zoning maps to reflect annexation of property for the Hampstead Industrial Exchange site. The annexation area is comprised of several properties totaling 304.09 acres south of Houcksville Road and west of Route 30.

◆Transportation priorities. Voted 3-0 to revise the list of priority road projects being submitted to the State for funding. The Route 140 relocation in Taneytown was moved to No. 2 from No. 3 in the Planning category. Route 30 relocation project in Manchester was moved to No. 3 from No. 2.

◆Purchase of property. Voted 3-0 to exercise the option to purchase the Jason Nightingale property located at 221 Greenwood Ave. in Westminster for \$210,000. The property contains a one-story dwelling on 0.2 acres of land and is part of the Greenwood Campus project.

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, NOVEMBER 5

2 p.m. Board of County Commissioners' annual meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation – Room 003

3 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council – Room 300A POSTPONED

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

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

1 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

County offices closed in observance of Veterans Day



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10:30 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster

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

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, NOVEMBER 13

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, NOVEMBER 18

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

3 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003

7 p.m. Public open house on environmental assessment for airport development – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9 a.m. Technical Review Committee – Room 003

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

County offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Nominees sought to fill vacancies on parks & recreation, aging commissions

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking people who are interested in filling vacancies on both the Commission on Aging and

the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. A representative from the Manchester area is needed to serve through 2010 on the Aging Com-

mission. The parks board needs North Carroll, Westminster and New Windsor representatives. Resumes and applications should

be sent to Denise Hoover by email, dhoover@ccg.carr.org, or mailed to her attention at 225 N. Center St., Westminster, MD 21157.

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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