

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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DECEMBER 2008



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

Bond rating upgraded

Carroll County's strong financial policies earned an upgrade to its bond rating last month.

Citing "excellent management practices with long-range planning that guides county growth and development," Standard & Poor's granted Carroll AA+ status.

The other national bond rating agencies, Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Services, maintained their high evaluations of the county, as well, issuing AA+ and Aa2 ratings, respectively.

Financial agencies typically use a scale of C through AAA to rate the financial position of the issuer, with AAA reflecting the strongest position. The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate.

On Nov. 13, the county sold \$80 million in general obligation bonds to Citigroup Global at an interest rate less than 4.4 percent. Proceeds will help to pay for a portion of the construction of Manchester Valley High School, a new classroom building at Carroll Community College, agricultural land preservation, and public works projects.

S&P cited Carroll's "established and well-adhered to fiscal policies and long-term planning,"

SPRUCING UP



Office of Public Information

Bureau of Facilities employees stabilize a 20-foot spruce in front of the County Office Building in anticipation of the Dec. 4th tree-lighting ceremony. The public is invited to attend. The Voices community chorus and Westminster Elementary School's fifth-grade band and orchestra will perform. Light refreshments are being donated by Westminster Ridge retirement community. The event begins at 6 p.m.

Police panel begins work outlining option of county force

A group of law enforcement officers began meeting this fall to develop a model for a future Carroll County police agency.

Commissioners recognized the need to have options in place should the Maryland State Police Resident Trooper Program be discontinued.

One option is to form an agency that uses already avail-

able resources. The charge of the Unified Law Enforcement Workgroup is to create a model for a new agency.

Information from each meeting of the workgroup is posted on the County's web site at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/ccpd/workgroup.asp>. Anyone can sign up online for updates of the information.

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TRY THIS

Consider ways to reduce your waste this holiday season:

- *Make gift tags from last year's holiday cards.*
- *Sending a gift? Reuse the foam peanuts from another package, or use unbuttered popcorn for packing.*
- *Make your own cards out of last year's cards and the wrapping paper you saved.*
- *Creative substitutes for wrapping paper include used blueprint paper, the Sunday comics, or even the sports section.*
- *Design your own wrapping paper using paper shopping bags: decorate them with paints, crayons, stamps or markers.*

Design Carroll's new recycling logo

What art student wouldn't want a portfolio that includes a logo that can be found in nearly 61,000 households?

The Board of County Commissioners is offering just such an opportunity with a logo design contest for Carroll County's recycling program.

The winning design will appear in brochures, advertisements and fliers that are distributed county-wide.

The contest, which runs through Feb. 13, 2009, is open to students in grades 9 through 12 who reside in and are enrolled in Carroll County schools or a



home school association.

Each school and home school association is invited to submit one entry. Schools are encouraged to have individual contests to select their submission.

The recycling logo design should create a visual emblem for Carroll County Government Recycling and be immediately identifiable. Details are available by calling Recycling Manager Maria Myers at 410-386-2035. Entries must be mailed or delivered no later than Feb. 13, 2009. The winner will be notified by April 1, 2009.



Office of Public Information

A recycling-themed wreath will be up for bidding during the Carroll Arts Center's annual Festival of Wreaths from Dec. 3-7. Adorning the wreath are landfill coupons, and angels made from soda cans.

Find creative ways to wrap holiday gifts without wasting paper

Carroll County's Recycling Operations encourages residents to look at no-waste gift wrapping options this holiday season:

- ◆ Wrap the gift in a drawstring bag and use an inexpensive luggage tag for the gift tag.
- ◆ For a person who is handy, wrap a gift in a tool box.
- ◆ Any kitchen gift can be wrapped in a

colorful dish towel. Kitchen utensils can pop out of an oven mitt.

- ◆ Place home-baked cookies in a reusable tin box, a kitchen container, or a decorated oatmeal box.
- ◆ For a reader, wrap a book in a reusable canvas shopping sack.
- ◆ Wrap tools for a gardener in a planter, bucket or the pocket of an apron.

◆ Hang earrings, bracelets or necklaces right on the Christmas tree, or put them inside or around an ornament.

◆ Search the flea markets, garage sales, and thrift stores for interesting old boxes that can be used as decorative packages.

◆ Search the attic for old family photos and mementos, and give them to your favorite relative wrapped in your child's artwork.



Carroll County Public Library

Construction of the new Finksburg library branch is nearly complete. Officials at the Carroll County Public Library anticipate a January opening of the environmentally friendly facility.

Finksburg library nears completion

Officials hope to open the doors of the new Finksburg branch of the Carroll County Public Library some time next month.

Patrons will find themselves in one of the most "green" buildings in the county. Built to the strict guidelines of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the library features a geothermal energy system, native plantings, a solar-powered water heater, and natural lighting, among other sustainable

items. All stormwater remains on site to recharge the water table.

The 15,000-square-foot facility is located at 2265 Old Westminster Pike, across the street from Sandymount Park. It sits on 10 acres of land. The project cost \$4.5 million to complete.

The Lukmire Partnership designed the building. Tech Contracting handled construction. Building began in August 2007 and is on schedule.

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

NOVEMBER 6

◆ Environmental Advisory Council. Voted 2-1 (with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed) to approve a change to the bylaws of the council, which would allow EAC members to elect an appointed member to serve as chairman, rather than having the chairman designated by the County Commissioners.

◆ Sprinkler requirements. By consensus, agreed to leave the public record open for 15 business days on proposed changes regarding sprinkler requirements for renovation of residential dwellings or their reconstruction due to fire damage.

◆ Housing grant. Agreed 3-0 to pre-approve an application by Citizen Services to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for \$150,000 in Home Initiatives grant funds. The program will provide up to two years of assistance for as many as 15 households, with a goal of self sufficiency.

◆ Homeland security grants. On separate 3-0 votes, accepted two grant awards from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security that are passed through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. The first grant of \$381,462 will be used for a countywide effort to prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters, including \$65,000 for an Emergency Management Planner position. The second grant of \$66,473 is designated for volunteer mobilization and hazardous materials support.

◆ Water and sewer plan. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to close a public hearing and adopt four amendments to the Water and Sewerage Master Plan, and also to proceed to public hearing with a fifth proposed amendment regarding Hampstead's recent annexation of the Hampstead Industrial Exchange properties.

◆ Zoning waiver. Approved a zoning waiver 3-0 for the City of Taneytown's annexation of the Taneytown Baptist Church site, consisting of 6.2173 acres of land along the north side of Sells Mill Road east of Stumptown Road. The zoning of the property will be changed from agricultural to residential.

◆ Self-help parks projects. Approved, 3-0, funding totaling \$72,167 for the following self-help projects, awarded to recreation councils, as recommended by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board:

Equestrian Center—\$9,825 for a surface upgrade for two show rings;

Charles Carroll—\$3,263 for concrete for a pavilion at the Cherrytown Road ballfield;

Freedom—\$3,975 for a concession/storage shed at Freedom Park;

Freedom—\$11,576 for ball diamond mix for Freedom Park, Eldersburg Elementary and Hodges Park;

Piney Run—\$5,315 for a prefabricated mini pavilion at Piney Run Park;

Westminster—\$10,000 to convert a baseball field at Landon C. Burns Park from 90 feet to 75 feet to make it usable for smaller children;

West Carroll—\$2,115 for infield conditioner for field No. 1 at FSK High School;

West Carroll—\$3,705 for a ball diamond for Union Bridge fields;

West Carroll—\$1,852 for ball diamond mix for New Windsor Lions Club;

West Carroll—\$2,805 for ball diamond mix at Seibel Fields;

West Carroll—\$2,115 infield conditioner for field No. 2 at FSK High School;

West Carroll—\$4,177 infield conditioner for New Windsor Lions Club field;

Winfield—\$4,646 to replace backstop fencing at Mayeski Park; and

Winfield—\$6,798 for improvements to the lower field at Linton Springs Elementary.

◆ Zoning amendment. Voted 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with an amendment to change the definition of automobile service center in Chapter 223, Zoning.

NOVEMBER 13

◆ Housing grant. On a 2-0 vote (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) gave final approval for Citizen Services to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for \$150,000 in Home Initiatives grant funds. The program will provide up to two years of assistance for as many as 15 households, with a goal of self sufficiency.

◆ Bark Hill Park. Approved 2-0 a transfer of \$220,000 to the Bark Hill Park project from the Gillis Falls Park project, which has been put on hold while plans for a future reservoir are finalized. The funds will be used for road improvements at Bark Hill Park.

◆ Park fees. Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer's motion to approve changes to the fee structure for park facilities died for lack of a second. No vote was taken. The Department of Recreation and Parks recommended the increased fees for major park facilities to help pay for their operating costs.

◆ Northern Landfill. On separate 2-0 votes, awarded the following contracts: 1) North East Waste Services Inc. for the transfer and disposal of waste from the Northern Landfill Transfer Station at a rate of \$54 per ton; and 2) Mercer Motor Works to supply and deliver a landfill tarp system for \$29,635 that will replace the current practice of covering the landfill with dirt at a cost of \$100 per day.

NOVEMBER 20

◆ Housing grant. Accepted 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich was absent) on behalf of Citizen Services an Emergency Shelter Grant award of \$31,700 to be used for shelter operating costs and homeless prevention activities. The grant requires a County cash match of \$103,836 (part of Human Services Programs FY09 budget) and office space valued at \$5,000, as well as \$9,000 from the City of Westminster. Total program cost is \$149,536.

◆ Transportation plan. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich was absent) the annual transportation plan for fiscal year 2010, which requests state and federal funds of \$850,511 for operating costs and \$345,885 for capital projects. Money goes to the operation of bus service by the Carroll Area Transit System.

◆ Water resource planning. On a 3-0 vote, awarded Malcolm Pirnier Inc. a contract for \$248,100 to provide recommendations, strategies, and alternatives toward the development of a water management plan for the county.

◆ Inmate dental care. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Dentrust Dental to provide dental services for inmates at the Carroll County Detention Center.

NOVEMBER 25

◆ Westminster High School. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) the transfer of \$7,012,953.12 for the Westminster High School heating, ventilation, and air conditioning project. The funds come from 16 other school projects that finished under budget.

◆ Public hearing. Agreed to leave the record open for 10 business days for public comment on an amendment that would change the definition of an automobile service center.

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, DECEMBER 2

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:30 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003
11 a.m. Public hearing – Proposed amendment to water and sewer master plan – Room 311
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
Noon Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 10

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

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, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 17

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
2 p.m. Joint meeting of Carroll Delegation to the General Assembly and County Commissioners – Room 003

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25-26

County offices closed in observance of Christmas

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 1-2, 2009

County offices closed in observance of the New Year

Volunteers needed to help clear snow

Volunteers are needed to remove snow and ice for isolated older adults throughout Carroll County.

A Clear Path, a program of the Bureau of Aging, matches volunteers with seniors in need of assistance. Those receiving help must be county residents ages 60 or older; those with disabilities are eligible at age 50.

After the snow has stopped and streets have been cleared, volunteers shovel walkways for others.

Church youth groups, Scouts, high school organizations, or individual adults are invited to participate. An adult must supervise anyone younger than 18.

A brief training will be held for volunteers.

If you are interested in helping your community with snow and ice removal, please call the Bureau of Aging at 410-386-3800.

If your club, organization or church already provides this service, please let us know.

Email your commissioners

Julia W. Gouge: jgouge@ccg.carr.org
Dean L. Minnich: dminnich@ccg.carr.org
Michael D. Zimmer: mzimmer@ccg.carr.org

To reach all three: 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