



Senator talks about proposal to stimulate nation's economy

Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland met with Carroll's Board of County Commissioners on Dec. 8, 2008, to discuss how the county might be able to utilize any funding from an economic stimulus plan proposed by President-Elect Barack Obama.

Roads, bridges and water treatment facilities — projects that can create jobs, improve infrastructure, and be started quickly — are targeted for funding under the plan.

As Senator Mikulski explained the proposal, federal money would be given to states. State governments then would decide how to distribute their funds.

Typically, road projects that receive federal funding must be approved by a regional transportation board, such as the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's transportation board.



Office of Public Information

Senator Barbara Mikulski (left) talks with Carroll County Commissioners Julia W. Gouge, Michael D. Zimmer and Dean L. Minnich last month about projects in Carroll County that may qualify for assistance under an economic stimulus plan proposed by President-Elect Barack Obama.

Commissioners expect to discuss in January which projects they would like considered for any available funding through the program.

In the meantime, County staff are talking with officials in Carroll's municipalities about priority projects.

Homeowners encouraged to file tax credit application

Homeowners in the Westminster area and those who live in the northwest part of the county — including Keymar, Taneytown and Union Bridge — are strongly encouraged to file for the State of Maryland's Homestead Tax Credit.

In Carroll County, the credit keeps your property tax bill from rising more than 7 percent a year for the house where you live.

Until last year, the tax credit

was automatic. Because of a change in State law, to receive the credit now, you must fill out a one-time application. Make sure you do not lose this valuable credit.

"This credit can have a significant impact on your real estate taxes regardless of your property's value or your income level," the application states.

You should have received a copy of the application with your new assessment. It asks for

a property identification number. That number is on the form the State Department of Assessments and Taxation sent to you. It can also be found online at http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/. The identification number is a combination of your district and account numbers.

You can also apply for the credit online at <https://sdathc.resiusa.org/homestead/>. To do so, you will need an access number from the paperwork that the State sent to you.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New park fees	2
Utilities council	2
Votes	3
Upcoming meetings	4

DID YOU KNOW?

- The County Attorney's Office collected \$632,722 last year in delinquent accounts.
- Delinquent accounts can be for personal property taxes, Sheriff medical charges, accidents resulting in County property damage, bad checks, and bankruptcies.
- The Board of License Commissioners (commonly known as the Liquor Board) inspected 149 establishments last year.
- Each establishment must be inspected every two months. Inspectors performed 904 inspections last year.

Park, field and range fees increase slightly for 2009 season

Some fees to use park facilities in Carroll County went up slightly this month.

The Department of Recreation and Parks updated fees at Piney Run Park, Hashawha Environmental Center, Hap Baker Firearms Facility and the Carroll County Sports Complex, effective Jan. 1.

Those facilities collect enough revenue, on average, to recover approximately 80 percent of their operating expenses. Rising costs, such as for fuel and utilities, led to the need for the new fees.



Daily entrance fees at Piney Run Park rose \$1 for county residents and \$2 for guests coming from out of the county.

Office of Public Information

PINEY RUN PARK

In-county season pass		
New \$40	Previous \$30	
Out-of-county season pass		
New \$55	Previous \$40	
In-county daily fee		
New \$5	Previous \$4	
Out-of-county daily fee		
New \$10	Previous \$8	
Additional vehicle pass		
New \$15	Previous \$10	
Boat launch daily		
New \$8	Previous \$5	
Boat launch season pass		
New \$50	Previous \$40	
Additional boat launch season pass		
New \$20	Previous \$15	

HAP BAKER FIREARMS FACILITY

In-county season pass		
New \$50	Previous \$40	
Out-of-county season pass		
New \$85	Previous \$70	

Daily rates did not change

HASHAWHA

Meal costs		
New \$13.75/day	Previous \$12.70/day	
1-night stay and 3 meals		
New \$43/person	Previous \$40/person	
2-nights stay and 5 meals		
New \$55/person	Previous \$52/person	
Monday-Friday and 13 meals		
New \$110/person	Previous \$104/person	
Carroll County Scouts (no meals)		
One cabin/one night		
New \$300/cabin	Previous \$200/cabin	
Carroll County Scouts (no meals)		
One cabin/two nights		
New \$400/cabin	Previous \$325/cabin	
Recreational programming fee		
New \$25/cabin	Previous \$0	
Pool usage fee		
New \$25/cabin	Previous \$0	

SPORTS COMPLEX

Field use fee (per game/hour)		
New \$20	Previous \$18	
Lighting fee (per hour)		
New \$30	Previous \$28	
Co-ed summer league fee (per team)		
New \$350	Previous \$340	
Co-ed fall league fee (per team)		
New \$275	Previous \$250	
Women's fast pitch entry fee		
New \$375	Previous \$350	
Weekend fee, all fields		
New \$800	Previous \$600	
Saturday fee, all fields		
New \$500	Previous \$400	
Sunday fee, all fields		
New \$400	Previous \$300	
Parking		
New \$1/car/tournament	Previous \$0	

Six-member Utilities Advisory Council to be formed by County

People who want to offer their input on water and sewer service operated by Carroll County are invited to submit applications so they can be considered for the newly formed Utilities Advisory Council.

The six-member council will review and comment on all aspects of utilities operations. This includes customer concerns and the development and review of

the Water and Sewerage Master Plans, the annually adopted capital and operating budgets, and the water and sewer rate model.

The Board of County Commissioners established the council during a Dec. 11, 2008, open session.

Membership will include account holders from the Freedom water and sewer area; the Hampstead sewer service area; and

either the Pleasant Valley, Bark Hill, Bramble Hills, or other future service areas. The county-wide Water Resource Coordination Council also will have a representative on the advisory council.

Initially, two members will serve one-year terms, two will serve two-year terms, and two will serve three-year terms. Eventually all appointments will

be for three years.

To be considered for the council, fill out an application, which can be found online at <http://ccgovernent.carr.org/ccg/commiss/boards/applicat.pdf>. Send the application to the Board of County Commissioners, attn: Denise Hoover, at 225 N. Center St., Westminster, MD 21157. Forms can also be emailed to dhoover@ccg.carr.org.

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

DECEMBER 4

◆ Water and sewer plan. Approved 3-0 an amendment to the Water and Sewerage Master Plan regarding Hampstead's recent annexation of the Hampstead Industrial Exchange properties.

◆ Carroll Community College. Awarded 3-0 contracts to the following vendors to extend compatible support systems into the new building at Carroll Community College: \$3,100 to Westminster Security for a building security system; \$60,320.56 to Village Sound for an emergency public address system; \$69,850 to Communications Electronics for a bi-directional antenna system; \$52,303.15 to Skyline Network Engineering for a surveillance camera system; and \$54,952 to Stanley Security Solutions for Code Blue emergency call boxes.

◆ Inmate pharmaceutical services. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Correct Rx Pharmacy Services to provide pharmaceutical services for inmates at the Carroll County Detention Center.

◆ Park fees. Voted 3-0 to approve changes to the fee structure for major county park facilities to help pay for their operating costs. (See story on Page 2 for details.)

DECEMBER 11

◆ Grant award. Accepted 3-0 a Department of Homeland Security grant award of \$65,000 for federal fiscal year 2008 to fund a local emergency planner.

◆ Zoning maps. Agreed 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to County zoning maps to reflect annexation of the Charles Graham property into the town of Hampstead. The annexed area is comprised 0.68 acres on the southeast corner of South Carroll Street and Gill Avenue.

◆ Vehicle purchases. Approved 3-0 the following purchases from Criswell Chevrolet using a State of Maryland contract: 1) \$25,584

for a 3/4 ton pickup for the Bureau of Facilities; 2) \$27,504 for a one-ton pickup for Facilities; 3) \$34,919 for a 3/4 ton pickup for the Bureau of Roads Operations; and 4) \$40,689 for a one-ton pickup for Roads Operations.

tural preservation easements. A proposal from allied agencies seeks an amendment to State gaming laws to allow casino nights and card games for charitable organizations.

ble television, including rights-of-way and consumer protection.

◆ Transportation award. Approved 3-0 a transfer of funds from the contingency reserve for the FY09 transportation program. Because of a reduction in the original award from the Maryland Department of Transportation, the County match had to be increased by \$252,878 to meet the County's contractual obligation with Carroll Area Transit System.

◆ Conservation easement. Voted 3-0 to exercise the County's option to purchase a county-held conservation easement on the Helen A. Owings property of 39.170 acres located at 739 South Springdale Road in New Windsor for \$150,000.

◆ Sprinkler requirements. By consensus, agreed to proceed to a new public hearing on proposed changes regarding sprinkler requirements for renovation of residential dwellings or their reconstruction due to fire damage. The original amendments were substantially revised based on feedback from an earlier public hearing.

◆ Carrolltown mall rezoning. On separate 3-0 votes, found that a mistake had been made when 29.78 acres of land known as Carrolltown Center was zoned Business Neighborhood Retail, and then rezoned the land as Business-General. The reclassification corrected a mistake made in 2006 when all Business Local properties were reclassified as Business Neighborhood Retail, which does not allow for uses that exceed 10,000 square feet.

DECEMBER 23

◆ Design manual. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Dean L. Minnich was absent) to incorporate a new chapter in the design manual for roads and storm drains. Chapter 10 outlines specifications for box culverts and bridge structures.

◆ **The Board of County Commissioners typically holds public meetings every Thursday. Sessions begin at 10 a.m. and are held in Room 311 of the County Office Building.**

◆ **Residents can bring issues to the board during open community time, held on alternating Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., resuming Jan. 29th.**

◆ Tree services. Voted 3-0 to award a \$300,500 contract to Miller Tree Service for tree trimming and removal services as designated by the county.

◆ New advisory council. Agreed 3-0 to the formation of the Carroll County Utilities Advisory Council. The six-member council will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Three members will be account holders from the Freedom District water/sewer service area. (At least one of the three will be a commercial customer.) One member will be an account holder from the Hampstead sewer service area, another from either the Pleasant Valley, Bark Hill, Bramble Hills or future service areas. The final member will be a representative of the Water Resource Coordination Council.

◆ 2009 legislative proposals. Approved 3-0 legislative proposals for presentation to the Delegation for the 2009 General Assembly session. The Board of County Commissioners' proposals include the annual local bond bill and a modified bonding approach for purchase of agricul-

DECEMBER 18

◆ Fair housing plan. Approved 3-0 a plan to "Affirmatively Further Fair Housing" that is required by the Department of Housing and Community to be eligible for several federal grants funds.

◆ Lift replacement. Agreed 3-0 to transfer \$120,000 to replace a heavy vehicle/equipment lift at the Maintenance Center. The project was budgeted for fiscal year 2010, but the vendor has agreed to replace the lift for \$18,000 less if the county locks in the price before Dec. 31, 2008. The funds will come from a project that was completed under budget.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Approved 3-0 the purchase of a John Deere 672D Motor Grader for \$179,128 from Standard Equipment Company using a Montgomery County contract. The grader will replace one that is more than 20 years old used by the Bureau of Roads Operations.

◆ Cable television ordinances. On a 3-0 vote, adopted proposed code amendments regarding ca-

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.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 1-2

County offices closed in observance of New Year's

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

9 a.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

7:30 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
8 a.m. Plumbing Advisory Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

2 p.m. Circle of Caring/Homeless Board Governance Committee– Citizen Services Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
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, JANUARY 14

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
4 p.m. Public workshop on proposed amendments to the construction code outlining when sprinkler systems are required – Room 105
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Noon Board of County Commissioners speak at Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the County Luncheon – Martin's Westminster

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

County offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

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
11:20 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to the construction code outlining when sprinkler systems are required – Room 311

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
10 a.m. Finksburg Library Ribbon Cutting – 2265 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg
7 p.m. Hampstead community meeting – North Carroll Senior and Community Center, 2328 Hanover Pike

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

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

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://ccgovernent.carr.org/ccg/pubinfo>.

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