

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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Board outlines State of County

Challenges and opportunities await the Board of County Commissioners in 2009. That was the message Commissioners gave when they addressed business and community leaders at the annual State of the County luncheon on Jan. 15th.

Carroll County's history of developing operating budgets that look six years out has helped the county to weather the current financial storm better than counties around us, Commission President Julia W. Gouge told the crowd.



Office of Public Information

Commissioners Julia W. Gouge, Michael D. Zimmer and Dean L. Minnich answered questions and provided their assessments of the State of the County during the Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon.

Revenue expectations are down, so most departments should expect flat funding as the fiscal year 2010 budget is constructed.

It was not all bad news, however. In the past year, the county's commercial and industrial base reached \$2 billion.

Also in 2008, Carroll reached the 54,000-acre mark in its agricultural land preser-

vation program. That puts Carroll fifth in the nation in the number of acres preserved.

"Not only does this help our farms remain viable, it eliminates the need for schools and additional infrastructure when houses are not built," Gouge explained.

Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer spoke of the opportunities and challenges facing Carroll in 2009. These included the adoption of an updated comprehensive plan, decisions about the future of solid waste, and the completion of Phase I of the fiber network to connect public facilities.

Board gets early look at FY10 finances

The County cannot pay for all the projects and programs that had been planned for the next few years.

Revenues are coming in slower than had been anticipated. Those changing expectations, coupled with the prospect of State cuts, mean the six-year operating and capital budgets must be rebalanced.

Last month, the Department of Management and Budget presented the Commissioners

with a preliminary six-year Community Investment Program (CIP) budget. Not included were numerous requested projects, including a new career and technology center and several additions and modernizations to schools.

In late March, staff will recommend both the CIP and operating budgets to the Board for consideration. In early April, departments and governmental partners will have an

opportunity to speak with Commissioners about their budgets.

Commissioners will issue their proposed budget in the middle of April. Residents can learn about that spending plan during meetings held across the county in late April or early May.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held in mid-May, with adoption later that month. FY10 begins July 1.

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Carroll County's Bureau of Roads Operations clears more than 970 miles of roadways of snow and ice during winter weather.
- Each month, an estimated 4,000 people visit the county's Swap Shop at the Northern Landfill, keeping untold pounds of items out of the landfill.
- At the county's five senior and community centers, volunteers saved taxpayers approximately \$804,717 in 2008.
- Easements secure 112,582 gallons of water a day in Carroll County.
- In 2008, dispatchers answered 61,140 calls to 911.

Libraries celebrate new space

The Carroll County Public Library opened a new chapter last month with the addition of a Finksburg branch, the sixth branch in the system. The \$6 million building was designed with environmentally friendly features, such as geothermal heating and cooling and natural

lighting. The same day that Finksburg opened, the Taneytown branch opened its expanded facility, with more than 5,000 square feet of additional space. That project cost approximately \$1.75 million. Both were 100 percent funded by the County.



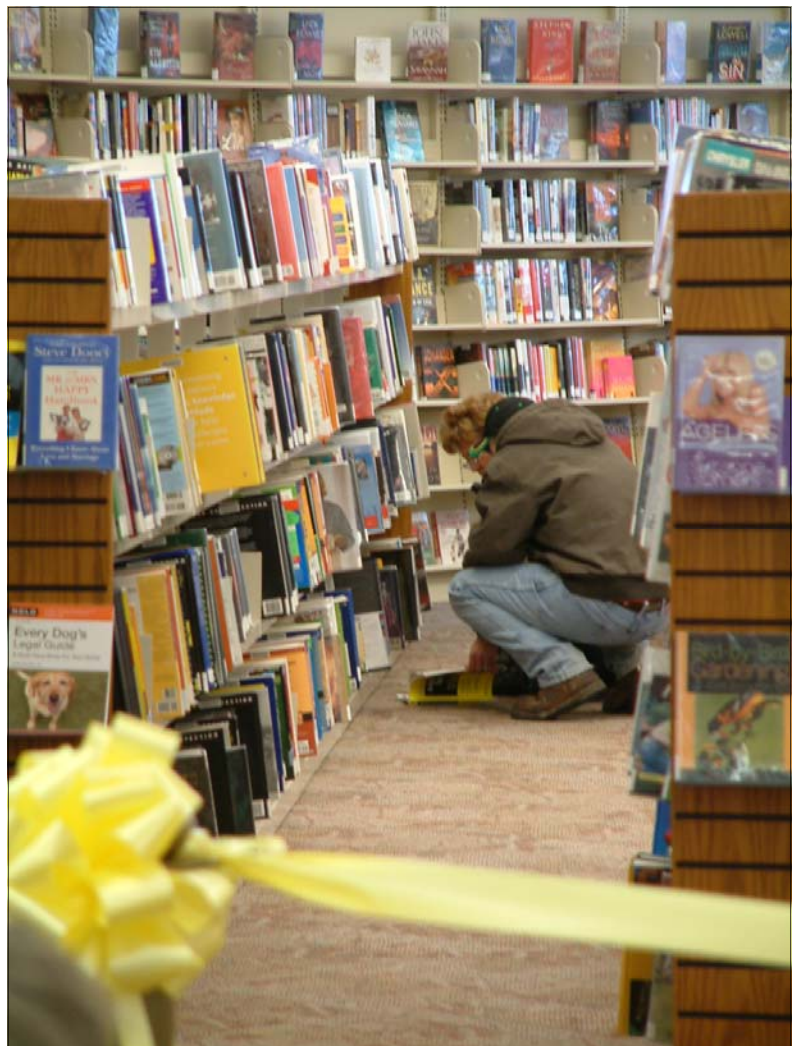
The Finksburg branch (above and below) is considered a "gateway" building for the community.



Photos by the Office of Public Information



A ribbon is cut to mark the opening of the Taneytown addition (above left and below). Scouts prepare to raise the flag over Finksburg's new library (above right).



Actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners during January

JANUARY 6

◆ Zoning amendment. Opposed 3-0 an amendment that would have changed the definition of automobile service center in the county's zoning ordinance.

◆ Annexation. Agreed 3-0 to a request from the Town of Hampstead for the annexation of the Hood Property. The property owners want to connect to the town's community water supply system. The annexation involves a little more than 1 acre on the northeast side of North Main Street.

◆ Transportation grant. On a 3-0 vote, accepted a \$541,214 award from the Maryland Department of Transportation. The funds will be used for Carroll Area Transit System (CATS) services: preventive maintenance on vehicles, an expansion vehicle, three replacement vehicles, mobile data computers, an office copier, and a portable vehicle wash system. The award requires matching funds of \$52,135 from the county and \$8,000 from CATS.

◆ Watershed protection. Approved 3-0 a grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for funds to assist in paying for trees and materials to establish a riparian buffer along 1,350 feet of the Gunpowder Falls. The buffer will help keep the stream cool for brook trout populations and improve water quality and the natural habitat of the Chesapeake Bay.

◆ Bridge repair. Voted 3-0 to award a \$447,785 contract to Kinsley Construction for the replacement of wing walls for a bridge on Keysville Frederick County Road over the Monocacy River.

◆ Bark Hill Park improvements. Awarded 3-0 a \$290,865 contract to John W. Gleim Jr. for improvements to ball fields and to Peace N Plenty Drive.

JANUARY 20

◆ Carroll County Public Network. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) to purchase servers and other computer equipment for the Carroll County Public Network from Dell Computers for \$160,116 through a contract with the Western States Contracting Alliance.

matching funds of \$1.3 million, which is required in order to receive \$2 million for easement purchases from the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

JANUARY 22

◆ Housing program. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Gouge was absent) to approve an application for 25 vouchers from the U. S. Department of Housing and Community Development that will allow Citizen Services to assist families and foster children who lack adequate housing.

land from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

◆ Sprinklers. After holding a public hearing, agreed 2-0 to leave the record open for at least 10 business days for public comment on revised amendments to Chapter 97, Construction Codes. The proposed amendments clarify sprinkler requirements for renovations and fire-damaged residential dwellings.

◆ Children's Advocacy Center. Approved 2-0 the transfer of \$71,700 from the Department of Citizen Services to the State's Attorney's Office, which oversees the Children's Advocacy Center program once administered by Citizen Services.

JANUARY 29

◆ Revenue bonds. After holding a public hearing, agreed 3-0 to amend the industrial revenue bonds issued in 2004 on behalf of Shelter Systems. The company requested that the optional redemption schedule be amended to decrease the amount of bond redeemed on July 1, 2009, and July 1, 2010, and defer that principal until the final maturity date. Repayment of the bonds is the sole responsibility of Shelter Systems.

◆ Road improvements. Awarded 3-0 a \$1.1 million contract to C. J. Miller for improvements to Md. 30 and Maple Grove Road near Manchester Valley High School.

◆ Conservation easement. Voted 3-0 to exercise the County's option to purchase a county-held conservation easement on 74 acres owned by Kenneth W. Staley, along Littlestown Pike, for \$489,153.60.

Twice a month, the County Commissioners sets aside time for residents to address the board about any issue.

In February, these Open Community Discussion times are scheduled for Thursdays, the 12th and 26th, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 311 of the County Office Building.

For more information, call 410-386-2043.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Voted 2-0 to approve the purchase of a one-ton diesel dump truck from Bob Bell Pontiac GMC for \$55,275, replacing a truck with excessive mileage used by the facilities bureau.

◆ Equipment purchase. Awarded 2-0 a contract to CD Municipal Sales Inc. to supply and deliver a new solids handling pump for \$29,402. The pump will replace one that failed at the Edgewood wastewater pumping station in the Sykesville area.

◆ Agricultural land preservation program. Agreed 3-0 to designate

◆ Dog park. Commissioners Minnich and Zimmer gave consensus for the Department of Recreation and Parks to draft a lease agreement and finalize plans for an off-leash dog park at Bennett Cerf Park in Westminster. The proposed park would be built, administered and maintained by the nonprofit group Bark for a Park, using little or no tax dollars or public funds, officials said. Funding for building and maintaining the park will come from a \$35 to \$50 annual membership fee paid by residents who use the park. Bark for a Park will lease the

Sign up for Community Emergency Reserve Team training course

If you want to be able to help during a disaster, consider taking Community Emergency Reserve Team training. This 20-hour class teaches emergency preparedness, fire safety, medical operations, disaster psychology, and terrorism. All graduates receive a

CERT ID card and a backpack full of emergency essentials.

Carroll County's next class will be offered Tuesday, March 3 - 6 - 9 p.m.; Thursday, March 5 - 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday, March 7 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Tuesday, March 10 - 6 - 9

p.m.; Thursday, March 12 - 6 - 9 p.m.; and Saturday, March 14 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you are interested in signing up for the class, please contact Emergency Management, at 410-386-2296 or email emgergencymgmt@ccg.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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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, FEBRUARY 11

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 – Board of Education Offices, 125 N. Court St., Westminster

Environmentalists sought

Do you know someone who has made an extra effort toward improving the environment in your neighborhood? Is a local business setting an example as a steward of the land?

The Environmental Advisory Council wants to recognize the people and businesses in the community that are taking care of the environment. Nominations are being accepted now through March 1 for the 2009 Environmental Awareness Awards.

Recognition will be given in each of five categories: individual; institutional; agricultural; business; and student.

The EAC encourages nominations be made electronically to minimize impact on the environment. This year, for the first time, people can submit their nominations directly on the county's web site. To access the form, go to <http://ccgovernment.carr.org> and click on "eServices" at the top of the page. A complete list of criteria is available online at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/eac>. Hard copies can be sent by fax, 410-386-2594, or by mail to Environmental Awareness Awards, c/o Office of Environmental Compliance, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157.

Call 410-386-2756 if you have any questions.

More county news at
ccgovernment.carr.org
or watch CCG 24 TV!

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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

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

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

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

County offices closed in observance of Presidents Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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, FEBRUARY 18

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

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

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8 a.m. Economic Outlook Seminar and Breakfast – The Portico of St. John, 43 Monroe St., Westminster

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

Email your commissioners

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

Email all three commissioners

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org
Not sure who to contact?
[Email PublicComments@ccg.carr.org](mailto:EmailPublicComments@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