

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009

Savings realized

Because of a hiring freeze instituted five months ago, Carroll County Government expects to save \$917,776 in fiscal year 2009 by leaving positions unfilled.

To date, 44 positions have been vacated since Sept. 23, 2008. That represents approximately 6.6 percent of the Board of County Commissioners' workforce.

Nine of those positions will be eliminated permanently, creating ongoing

See Savings, page 2

RESIDENTS TALK TO BOARD



Office of Public Information

People who live in the Hampstead and Manchester area spoke with the Board of County Commissioners on February 25th. The commissioners hold community meetings such as this one throughout the year. During the events, residents can speak about any county issue. There is no agenda. Meetings are televised on Channel 24 and available for streaming on the County's web site, <http://ccgovernment.carr.org>. Click on Video Library and Agendas.

Draft of Pathways nearly ready to be released

While it may seem as if the countywide comprehensive plan update (known as the Pathways Plan) has been forgotten, it has not.

For the past two years, staff from the county's Department of Planning have been working diligently behind the scenes. They are nearing the end of that process. Soon you will be able to see a draft of Pathways.

The effort kicked off in 2005 with a conference. Following that were meetings in 23 different communities, attracting more than 300 participants. The Council of Governments and business and development communities also met. A second countywide conference was held, a visual preference survey was conducted, and two public workshops addressed where to direct residential growth.

That visioning process provided great momentum. Many of its recommendations have been initiated. Carroll County Government now reviews architectural plans in the development process, and Builders for the Bay identified new ways to address storm water and other environmental issues.

As staff evaluated how to achieve other items residents said they wanted, a state law was passed that slowed down the process. The General Assembly required counties to include a new section, the Water Resources Element, into our plan. It has to be adopted by Oct. 1, 2009.

State policies and Clean Water Act requirements significantly affect options available to the county for Pathways. That means some of the original ideas needed to be re-examined. That is being wrapped up that now.

In the coming weeks, the Pathways website (www.carrollpathways.org) and e-mail will become more active. The website will continue to be a resource for access to information and materials. Meeting information, a copy of the draft plan, and other related materials will be available there. Already, visitors to the site can find 13 papers on various topics and seven newsletters.

The draft of the plan will propose action items to address land use, community design, workforce housing, environmental resources, economic development, priority preservation areas, transportation, and scenic roads. Stay tuned.



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Energy savings	2
Votes	3
Upcoming meetings	4



DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCK FORWARD SUNDAY!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Piney Run Park's annual Early Bird Fishing Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th, from 7 a.m. to noon.
- Prizes totaling \$25,000 will be awarded at the event, co-sponsored by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association.
- Register by calling 301-942-7205.

County seeks grant to improve energy efficiency

Carroll County Government hopes to get a state grant to help create greater energy efficiencies.

The EmPower Grant, which the Board of County Commissioners voted last month to seek, would pay for 82 dual-pane, low-E windows in the County Office Building and for three hybrid vehicles to replace older cars as they are rotated out of service.

When the county offices were built in 1973, 82 single-pane windows were installed. An addition in 1998, which doubled the size of the building, uses dual panes.

The new windows will be dual pane filled with insulating argon gas. Sashes will be insulated and the windows will have a low-E coating to reflect heat away from the surfaces.

With an estimate savings in heating and cooling costs of \$1.85 per square foot of

Gaps and single-pane glass make many windows in the County Office Building inefficient.



Office of Public Information

window space, the County projects savings of more than \$3,640 annually.

A typical 2,000-square-foot house would realize a savings of approximately \$555 a year in energy costs by upgrading to the same windows.

The same grant could lead to the replacement of three vehicles in the County's fleet with hybrid vehicles. They would take the

place of a 1992 Ford Tempo, a 1995 Dodge Neon, and a 2000 Chevy Cavalier, all with high mileage.

Hybrid technology was the least expensive alternative fuel option. Introducing other fuels would require expensive infrastructure, such as new fueling stations and storage tanks. While hybrids cost more initially than traditional vehicles, they get better mileage and emit less carbon.

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency recommends emissions of no more than 5.5 metric tons of carbon dioxide within a vehicle's lifetime. The battery backup in hybrids lowers emissions levels to 3.5-4.1 metric tons. By replacing old cars with hybrids, Carroll County Government will reduce its emissions. In 2007, the County signed onto the Cool Counties Agreement, which includes a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Peck recognized for 19 years serving on IDA

The Board of County Commissioners honored Dr. Arthur H. Peck on February 5th with a proclamation recognizing his service to the county and the Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

Dr. Peck contributed greatly to advancing economic development in the county, serving the IDA for 19 years and leading the organization as chairman since 1994.

Under Dr. Peck's leadership, the IDA helped to build-out the Westminster Air Business Center, provided funding and oversight for the early-stage development of the Warfield Corporate Center in Sykesville, and initiated the development of the Westminster Technology Park.

Other IDA community initiatives included support for the Carroll Community College Nursing Program, the Carroll Arts Center, and the Carroll Hospital Center along with assistance to resident industries and infrastructure development to support economic development.

In cooperation with the City of Westminster, the

Carroll County Department of Economic Development additionally recognized Dr. Peck's legacy by naming a street in the Westminster Technology Park after him. Arthur Peck Drive will serve as the gateway entrance into the park from Maryland Route 97.



Office of Public Information

Dr. Arthur H. Peck was honored by the Board of County Commissioners recently for his efforts to encourage economic development throughout Carroll County.

Savings

from page 1

savings of approximately \$261,868 annually.

Vacancies are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, so some essential positions have been or will be filled.

In addition to the hiring freeze, no salary increases will be included for the 981 County employees in the FY10 budget under development. Neither step increases nor cost-of-living adjustments will be considered. This includes personnel from the State's Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, and the Circuit Court. (The Board of Education negotiates salaries with the teachers union. Commissioners are not part of that process.)

Permanent staff reductions, by department, include:

- ◆ County Attorney: 1 full-time position — \$26,562
- ◆ General Services: 3.5 FT equivalent positions — \$123,795
- ◆ Human Resources: 1 full-time position — \$31,554
- ◆ Planning: 2 full-time positions — \$67,139
- ◆ Recreation & Parks: 0.5 FT equivalent position — \$12,818.

Votes made, actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners in February

FEBRUARY 5

◆ **Vehicle purchase.** Approved 3-0 the purchase of a new ¾-ton pick up from Criswell Chevrolet for \$25,023 to be used by the Department of Recreation & Parks for general maintenance.

◆ **Technology services.** Voted 3-0 to approve the transfer of \$162,000 to county technology improvements, including the purchase of additional storage and backup capacity for county data. The money was budgeted for the GIS digital orthophotography project in fiscal year 2009, but it has been determined that it will not be necessary to have aerial photography of the entire county taken again until FY2011.

◆ **Agricultural land preservation.** Agreed 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase a county-held land preservation easement on 195.29 acres at Bethel and Patapsco Roads, Finksburg, from Wilfred S. and Annie H. Hoff for \$1,201,211.55 and to sign an installment purchase agreement.

◆ **Fund transfer.** On a related 3-0 vote, approved the transfer of \$1.5 million from the Patapsco Watershed project to Agricultural Preservation.

◆ **Update of bylaws.** On a 3-0 vote, approved changes to the 1980 version of the Industrial Development Authority's bylaws to make them consistent with current practices, including open meetings law.

FEBRUARY 12

◆ **Sprinklers.** Due to the absence of Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer, no vote was taken on proposed revised amendments that clarify sprinkler requirements for renovations and fire-damaged residential dwellings.

◆ **Zoning maps.** Agreed 2-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to zoning maps to reflect the rezoning of property known

as Carrolltown Center from local business to general business. The area consists of 29.78 acres located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Liberty Road and Ridge Road in Eldersburg.

◆ **Impact fee waiver.** Approved 2-0 a request for a waiver of impact fees for Episcopal Housing Corporation Project on workforce housing for nine units on Union Street in Westminster.

◆ **Housing plan.** On a 3-0 vote, agreed to proceed to public hearing with the Bureau of Housing's Streamlined Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2009.

◆ **Builders for the Bay.** By consensus, agreed to sign the Builders for the Bay final report.

◆ **Water recharge credits.** Agreed 3-0 to allow staff to present the City of Taneytown with a final agreement regarding the transfer

(opposed), rejected proposed amendments regarding sprinklers.

◆ **Housing grant.** Approved 3-0 the development of an application for a Maryland Affordable Housing Trust grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The funds would pay \$50,000 for a housing manager to coordinate services and oversee activity in a duplex home that would provide transitional housing (up to 24 months) for six disabled individuals who have mental illness and/or co-occurring substance abuse.

◆ **Public safety.** Granted approval, 3-0, to apply for a \$3,400 grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The funds will be used to prepare and deliver curriculum materials to nursing homes and assisted living facilities that are needed to comply with state emergency and disaster plan requirements.

◆ **HazMat vehicle.** Gave consent 3-0 to amend an existing Department of Homeland Security grant agreement requesting funds to replace a hazardous material response truck used by Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association.

◆ **Drug court.** Voted 3-0 to pre-approve a grant application to the Maryland Office of Problem Solving Courts that will support Drug Treatment Court, including salaries and benefits of the coordinator and case manager, testing supplies, training, and educational stipends.

◆ **Energy savings grants.** Approved 3-0 two final applications for Energy Savings grants from the Maryland Energy Administration. The funds from the grants would be used to replace windows in the County Office Building with energy efficient windows and to purchase three hybrid vehicles to replace existing fleet vehicles.

Twice a month, County Commissioners set aside time for residents to address the board about any issue. This month, these Open Community Discussion times are scheduled for **Thursday, March 12th and 26th, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 311 of the County Office Building.**

For more information, call 410-386-2043.



FEBRUARY 19

◆ **Westminster High School.** Agreed 3-0 to support an application for Transportation Enhancement Program funding from the Maryland Department of Transportation to be used for the construction of a storm water management facility at Westminster High School. If approved, the project could receive up to 50 percent of funding, which is estimated at \$857,054.

◆ **Energy savings grant.** Approved 3-0 a request to develop an application for an EmPower Clean Energy grant from the Maryland Energy Administration. The funds would be used to replace windows in the County Office Building with energy efficient windows and to purchase three hybrid vehicles replacing existing fleet vehicles.

of water recharge credits to the municipality from nearby preserved farms.

◆ **Westminster library.** Awarded on a 3-0 vote a bid for the purchase of carpet tiles for the Westminster Library to Interface Flor for \$54,177.60. The purchase will be made through a cooperative purchasing contract with the National Joint Powers Alliance for a reduced cost.

FEBRUARY 26

◆ **County code.** Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with amendments to the County Code regarding Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land and Chapter 223, Zoning.

◆ **Sprinklers.** On a 2-1 vote (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge

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, MARCH 4

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

1 p.m. Board of County Commissioners
– Room 311
1 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land
Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

9 a.m. Sustainability committee – Room 105

MONDAY, MARCH 9

1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of
Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll
County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St.,
Westminster
6 p.m. Informational open house on the draft
Environmental Assessment of a replacement runway
and associated improvements at the Carroll County
Regional Airport – Room 003
7 p.m. Public hearing on the draft Environmental
Assessment for the Carroll County Regional Airport
– Room 003

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

3 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council
– Room 153, Carroll County Health Department,

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

290 S. Center St., Westminster

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10 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, MARCH 12

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 18

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and
allied agencies – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners
– Room 311

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority
– Room 105
1:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board
– Hashawha Environmental Center, 300 John
Owings Road, Westminster
7 p.m. Community meeting at Carroll Lutheran
Village, Krug Chapel Auditorium, 300 St. Luke
Circle, Westminster.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission
– Room 105
9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with
Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners
– Room 311

MONDAY, MARCH 30

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

Read newsletter 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://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/pubinfo>.

Email your commissioners

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org

Not sure who to contact?

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