

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*

Ag, education big in budget

Agricultural land preservation efforts and education are top priorities in the Board of County Commissioners' proposed budget for fiscal year 2010. Despite tough financial times across the globe, Carroll County's property tax rate will remain unchanged.

The \$354.5 million operating plan and accompanying six-year Community Investment Plan were released April 23. Residents can learn more about

the budget by attending one of several informational sessions or reviewing the budget or its summary online at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org>.

The budget was developed with the county's reserves intact, maintenance efforts still in place, and Carroll's conservative approach to fiscal management unchanged.

Agricultural land preservation efforts are proposed to get

\$17 million in FY10, in hopes of preserving 100,000 acres before land costs make the goal unreachable.

Carroll County Public Schools would receive \$12 million more than is required by state law.

Comments and questions about the budget can be submitted by using the online form or presented personally at the

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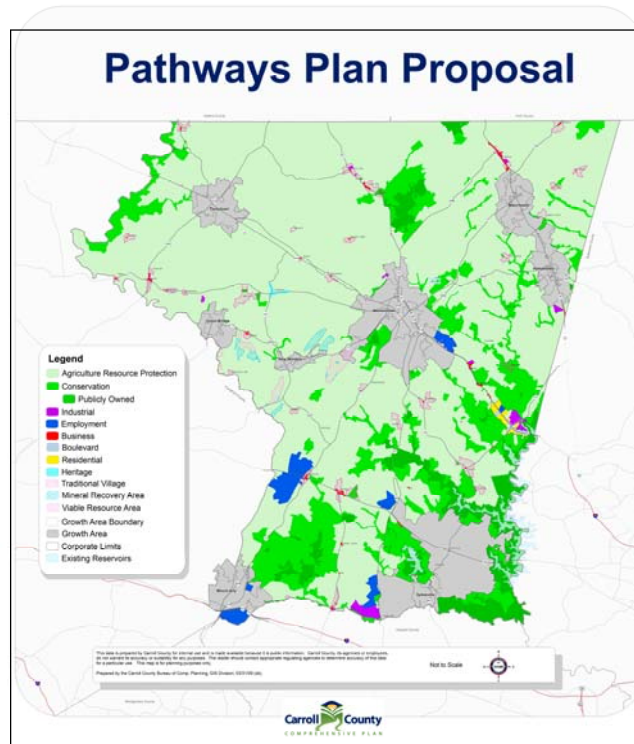
Draft of Pathways unveiled

The first major revision to Carroll County's land use plan in 10 years focuses on protecting the county's water, heritage and economy to create a stronger future for everyone.

A draft of the countywide comprehensive plan, known as "Pathways to Carroll's Future Landscape," was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 28th.

A special meeting of the commission will take place on Monday, May 4th, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Winters Mill High School in Westminster.

Development of "Pathways" spanned three and a half years, beginning with gathering input from



the people who live and work in Carroll County. Overwhelmingly, the public said Carroll County should manage its growth, provide more opportunities for jobs, expand agricultural and natural resource pres-

ervation efforts, improve and protect water quality, and encourage well-designed communities that respect the county's rich heritage.

During the mandatory 60-day review period, residents can



CONSERVATIONIST

Carroll County farmer Richard Soper Jr. (right) hosted U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack (left) and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on April 24 for the signing of a new agreement dealing with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Soper's farm has invested in several conservation measures that will help the Chesapeake Bay. It is also part of Carroll County's agricultural land preservation program.

County marks week

During the first full week of May, counties across the nation celebrate National County Government Week to educate the public about the services and programs offered by local governments. This year's theme is "Greening Our Future."

Carroll County Government employees will visit 461 fourth-graders to talk about "green" programs, such as recycling, recreation and environmental resources. Local radio station WTTR will hold daily trivia contests.

On Thursday, April 7, two special events will take place. Winners of the 2009 Environmental Awareness Awards will be honored. Then a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at the newly expanded Freedom Water Treatment Plant.

Budget

Continued from page 1

public hearing on Tuesday, May 12. The hearing begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Scott Center at Carroll Community College.

Commissioners can revise the budget after the public hearing, if they desire. Adoption is slated for Thursday, May 28. The fiscal year begins July 1.

The General Fund, or operating plan, authorizes day-to-day expenses. An increase of \$1.5 million has been proposed, or less than 0.5 percent over the current budget.

The FY10 budget process was especially difficult this year because of a combination of falling revenues and State cuts. Annual revenues are expected to drop by more than 1 percent, and Carroll County received a direct cut from the State of \$6 million, primarily from a reduction in Highway User Revenue.

In light of this challenge, this proposed budget includes money to operate the new Manchester Valley High School and Carroll Community College's new Classroom Building Four.

The Capital Fund, which allocates money for major projects, is proposed to be less than \$83.6 million. That is a decrease of \$51.7 million from FY09, a difference of more than 38 percent.

Pathways

Continued from page 1

examine the proposed plan and its implementation measures, including a proposed comprehensive rezoning.

The full plan is also available for viewing or downloading at www.carrollpathways.org. Hard copies of the plan can be reviewed at any Carroll County Public Library branch or at the Pathways Assistance Center, located in the County Office Building at 225 N. Center St. in Westminster.

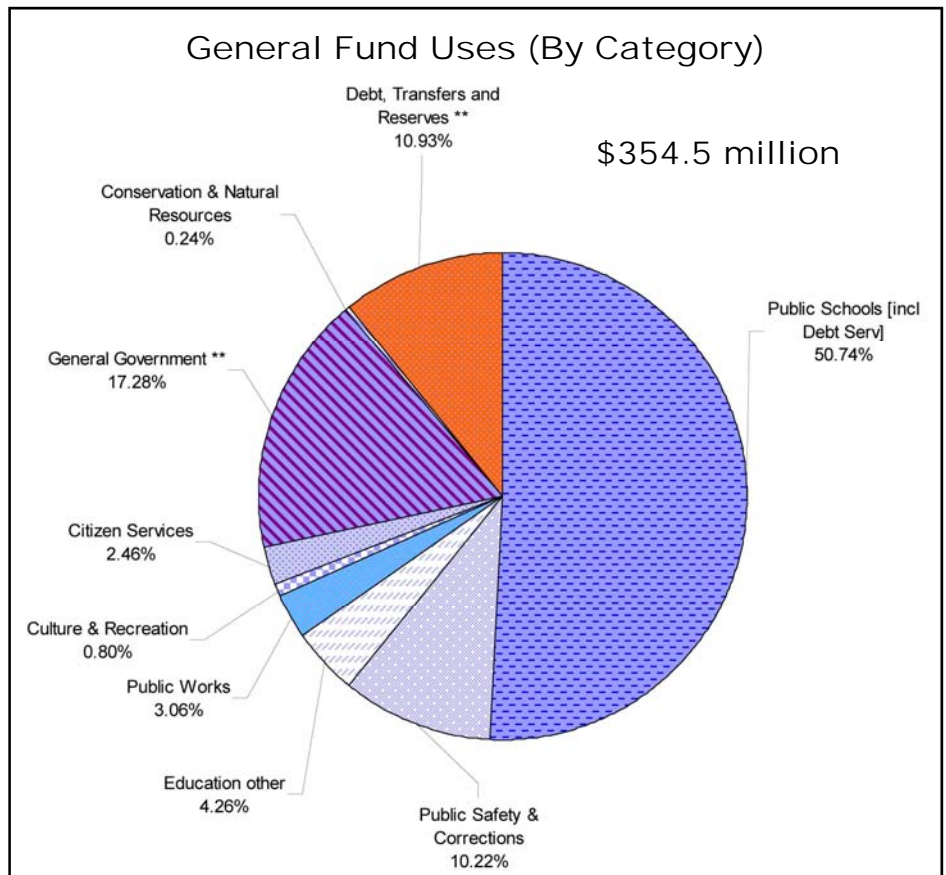
Because of an expected high volume of questions, the web site will be the easiest and fastest way to get information. The site includes frequently asked questions, topic

papers, a calendar of upcoming meetings, and a feedback form. Staff members will be available at the Pathways Assistance Center to answer questions. A toll-free telephone number, 1-877-349-8309, has been set up to reach the Pathways Assistance Center for those unable to come to the building. Questions can also be directed by email to pathways@ccg.carr.org.

Public open house workshops on "Pathways" will be held throughout the spring. Check the calendar on Page 4 for dates, times and locations of May meetings.

Additional meetings will be scheduled prior to the Planning Commission's public hearing and ultimate recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

To receive email notices of future meetings, click on "Stay Up to Date" on www.carrollpathways.org.



The total budget is \$553.18 million, or 1.48 percent over FY09. This number includes both general and capital funds; enterprise funds for the airport, water and sewer, solid waste, septage, and firearms; and funds for grants, Other Post Employment Benefits, pension and special revenues.

Budget Director Ted Zaleski will hold two more community meetings for the public to ask questions about the proposed spending plan. Those are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, at the Taneytown Library; and again at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 at the Mount Airy Library.

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

APRIL 7

◆ "Green" tax credit. Approved 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with an amendment to Chapter 209, Taxation, which would create a tax credit for improvements to commercial and industrial properties using sustainable or environmental technologies.

◆ County code. Voted 3-0 to adopt changes to the County Code regarding Chapter 103, Development and Subdivision of Land and Chapter 223, Zoning. Changes reflect a variety of issues designed to clarify provisions, correct procedural issues, and update certain provisions.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Agreed 3-0 to issue a letter of intent to purchase seven 2009 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors from Hetrich Fleet Services off a State of Maryland contract at 2009 prices to avoid 2010 increases.

◆ Tractor. Approved 3-0 the purchase of a new John Deere 850J Crawler Tractor from Standard Equipment Co. for \$284,731. The tractor will be used by the Northern Landfill.

◆ Bid approval. Voted 3-0 to award C. J. Miller a \$4,060,119 contract for hot mix asphalt overlay of 15 roads: Gist, Bethel, Hoffmanville, Houck, Johnsville, Marriottsville No. 1, Mineral Hill, Oakland, Oakland Mills, Oklahoma, Reese, Streaker, Slacks, and Wesley roads, and Georgetown Boulevard.

◆ Cape Horn athletic fields. On separate 3-0 votes, approved: the transfer of \$32,185 from Freedom Elementary ballfield account to park restoration to be used for Cape Horn Park field renovations; and a \$49,656 contract to Mid Atlantic Turf for renovations to Cape Horn fields.

◆ Hazardous materials grant. Accepted 3-0 a \$12,150 grant from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency for HazMat Emergency Preparedness training and planning. The county match is \$3,037.50 and will be made in kind.

◆ Generators. Approved 3-0 an agreement for a grant from Mary-

land Emergency Management Agency for the FFY04 Urban Areas Security Initiative grant. The grant was used to buy three large trailer-mounted generators. MEMA recently discovered they did not distribute the memorandum of agreement for the grant when it was originally acquired.

◆ Mobile data terminals. Voted 3-0 to approve an amendment to the FFY07 Homeland Security grant. An additional \$4,000 will pay for installation of docking stations for mobile data terminals in the Carroll County Sheriff's Office command vehicle.

◆ Training. Approved 3-0 a \$10,000 Homeland Security grant. The funds will be used by the Citizen Corps program to educate residents on preparedness.

◆ Percolation testing. Sitting as the Board of Health, the Commissioners approved 3-0 a change in wet weather percolation testing that allows developers to use qualified private companies or individuals to perform tests when the Carroll County Health Department is unable to schedule them in 21 days.

APRIL 16

◆ Housing assistance plan. Held a public hearing and approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) the Bureau of Housing's Streamlined Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2009 for submittal to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and signed certifications for compliance.

◆ Mentoring. Approved 2-0 the application for a Local Youth Mentoring Initiative grant by the Local Management Board. Funds would come from the U.S. Justice Department through the American Recovery and Investment Act. The money would be used for a community-based mentoring program to prevent at-risk and high-risk youth ages 11 to 18 from entering or having further involvement with the Department of Juvenile Services.

◆ Emergency management. Accepted on a 2-0 vote a grant of \$336,981 from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Funds

will be used for training, maintenance, volunteer mobilization, and a contractual Emergency Management Planner position.

◆ Law enforcement projects. On separate 2-0 votes, approved an agreement between the City of Westminster and Carroll County for a countywide computerized records management system that will store reports from the Sheriff's Office and all municipal police agencies; and the development of applications by the Sheriff's Office to pursue funds for the records management system and mobile data terminal project.

◆ Bypass property. Agreed 2-0 to exercise an option to purchase property next to the Town of Taneytown from the Maryland State Highway Administration for \$312,466. The property consists of 21 acres and will be used for the Taneytown bypass.

◆ Paving. Voted 2-0 to award M. T. Laney Co. with a \$1,278,291 contract for pavement improvements of 25 roads in the Westminster area and one neighborhood in northern Carroll County.

◆ Building addition. Awarded 2-0 a \$113,600 contract to GRC General Contractor for an addition to the maintenance building at 1250 Old Meadow Branch Road that will provide storage for equipment and materials.

◆ Furniture. Approved 2-0 the purchase of furniture for the Carroll Community College Classroom #4 from Maryland Correction Enterprise. The total cost \$1,086,635, but the State will reimburse Carroll \$623,728, so the county's total share will be \$462,906.

◆ Rural Legacy easement. Voted 2-0 to approve a request from the St. Luke's Lutheran/Winters Church to install a septic drainage field on the Dennis and Sandra Brothers' property, which is under a County/State Rural Legacy easement. The existing septic drainage field for the church is failing and inadequate, and there is no area owned by the church that can be used. The property owners have given their per-

mission and approval is required by the co-holders of the easement.

APRIL 23

◆ Access Carroll. Approved 3-0 the development of a Community Development Block grant application to the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development for funding to relocate Access Carroll. The health clinic provides services for uninsured, low-income residents.

◆ Grant applications. On separate 3-0 votes, approved the following applications to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant funds: for the installation of storm-water management facilities located in the Patapsco watershed; and for a pilot program that would provide information and support to local businesses in the Snowden's Run watershed to enhance site conditions and improve water quality.

APRIL 30

◆ "Green" tax credit. Voted 3-0 to adopt a tax credit for commercial and industrial properties that make improvements that use sustainable or environmentally friendly technologies.

◆ Auditor. Approved 3-0 a bid by Clifton Gunderson LLP of Timonium to provide financial auditing services for five years.

◆ Traffic roundabout. On a 3-0 vote, awarded the design and contract preparation work for a traffic roundabout at Englar Road and Monroe Street. Wallace, Montgomery & Associates of Towson submitted the highest-ranked bid, for \$120,000.

◆ Senior Inclusion. Voted 3-0 to approve a \$23,276 grant from the state for the Senior Inclusion Program for seniors with developmental disabilities.

◆ Nutrition. On a 3-0 vote, agreed to accept \$20,649 in stimulus funds to provide a breakfast program at senior centers, and \$10,166 to support the Meals on Wheels program's efforts to provide clients with emergency shelf-stable meals.

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.

WEEK OF MAY 3-9

National County Government Week

MONDAY, MAY 4

7 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Winters Mill High School auditorium, 560 Gorsuch Road, Westminster

TUESDAY, MAY 5

7 p.m. Budget community meeting – Taneytown Library large meeting room, 10 Grand Drive, Taneytown

THURSDAY, MAY 7

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Environmental Awareness Award winners honored by Commissioners and Environmental Advisory Council
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
1 p.m. Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board – Room 007
2 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony for Freedom Water Treatment Plant Expansion, 5631 Oakland Road, Sykesville
7 p.m. Budget community meeting – Mount Airy Library large meeting room, 705 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy

MONDAY, MAY 11

9 a.m. Animal Matters Board of Appeals hearing – Room 003
1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St., Westminster
1 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – Room 003
6 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – Finksburg library, 2265 Old Westminster Pike

TUESDAY, MAY 12

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
6 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – North Carroll Senior and Community Center, 2328 Hanover Pike
7:30 p.m. Budget public hearing – Scott Center at Carroll Community College, 1601 Washington Road, Westminster

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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
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

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

Drive, Westminster
6 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – Eldersburg library, 6400 Hemlock Drive
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, MAY 14

7:30 a.m. Economic Development Commission Executive Committee – Room 105
10 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and governmental partners – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

MONDAY, MAY 18

6 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – Taneytown library, 10 Grand Drive

TUESDAY, MAY 19

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003
6 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – Mount Airy Senior and Community Center, 703 Ridge Ave.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country

Restaurant, 289 W Main St., Westminster
6 p.m. Pathways Plan open house – Westminster Senior and Community Center, 125 Stoner Ave.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

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

MONDAY, MAY 25

County offices closed in observance of Memorial Day

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
7:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Room 003

THURSDAY, MAY 28

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and governmental partners – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
2 p.m. Governance Committee Circle of Caring/ Homeless Board – Citizen Services Conference Room, Suite 101, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
6 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

Email your 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