

County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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Planning Commission to hold meetings on Pathways draft

Residents have four opportunities this summer to speak to the Planning and Zoning Commission about the proposed countywide comprehensive plan.

Known as the Pathways Plan, the draft outlines how and where Carroll County should grow over the next two decades.

Three public meetings have been scheduled for this month:

◆ Thursday, June 11— Francis Scott Key High School auditorium, 7-9 p.m.

◆ Monday, June 15— Century High School auditorium, 7-9 p.m., and

◆ Tuesday, June 23—North

Carroll High School auditorium, 7-9 p.m.

A public hearing will be held later this summer, after the other meetings have concluded.

All residents are encouraged to find out more about the plan by visiting the web site www.Carrollpathways.org.

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

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High-tech Freedom water plant opens

If you sipped water from a tap in the Freedom area this spring, you probably didn't realize you were getting a taste of state-of-the-art technology.

Last month, the ceremonial ribbon was cut on an upgraded and expanded Freedom District Water Treatment Plant. It uses dissolved air as part of its filtering process.

Once the dissolved air filtration system, or DAF, removes the larger items from water out of Liberty Reservoir, the water heads through large membranes.

The upgrades more than doubled the plant's capacity. It can now treat 7 million gallons a day.

Work on the facility began in May 2007. In addition to the new filtration system, 2½ miles of 24-inch diameter pipes were laid and the intake system from the lake was replaced.

When it was completed this spring, the project cost less



Photos by the Office of Public Information
Visitors tour the new Freedom Water Treatment Plant as part of the May 7th ribbon-cutting ceremony. At left, Public Works Director J. Michael Evans (center) explains how dissolved air filtration cleans the water.

than the \$31 million that was budgeted.

After weeks of testing, the new system began working full time on March 16.

The Freedom District Water Treatment Plant currently serves 24,913 customers in the Eldersburg and Sykesville areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Freedom District Water Treatment Plant won second place in the surface water category of the annual American Water Works Association taste test competition in the Chesapeake Section. The contest was held in Linthicum last month.



Utilities Bureau Chief Joe Barrington
First place was awarded to Patuxent Water Filtration Plant, run by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Entries in the competition were judged on a scale of 1 to 10 based on taste, odor, mouth feel, aftertaste, and clarity.

Board adopts \$354.5M operating budget

Despite falling revenues, the Board of County Commissioners passed a spending plan that holds the current tax rate while cutting spending for 52 budgets.

Another 24 budgets were kept flat, funding for 14 positions was eliminated, and county employees will see no increases in their salaries for fiscal year 2010, which begins July 1.

The vote was 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposing.

Twenty-seven budgets, including the one for Carroll County Public Schools, increased. Of those 27, 12 were outside the Commissioners' authority, and two were offset by changes in other budgets. Only one was because of an increased level of service (adding credit card machines at the

Farm Museum). The other 12 were because of rising costs or factors that could not be controlled in the short term.

Overall, the operating plan came in at \$354.5 million. When all the funds — such as solid waste, water and sewer, and capital projects — are added together, the FY10 budget is \$553 million, an increase of \$1.5 million, or less than half of 1 percent.

Environmentalists win county awards

Carroll County's annual Environmental Awareness Awards recognized winners in five categories for the work they have done to protect the environment and educate others about environmental issues.

Part of Carroll County's National County Government Week activities, the May 7 ceremony fit with the national theme of "Greening Our Future."

The winners were: Melissa Melum (individual); Eldersburg Elementary School (educational); Karen and Bob Leatherwood of Carroll County Waste Services (business/industry); Robert Fischer (agricultural); and Amy Conaway (student).

Honorable mentions went to: Nancy Dunn, Kate Painter and Ken Mihalyov (individual); Robert Moton Elementary School, Carroll Community College President Dr. Faye Pappalardo, Carroll Hospital Center, Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, and Mount Airy Middle School (institutional/educational); and Northrup Grumman Corp.'s Sykesville campus (business/industry).



2009 Environmental Awareness Award winners, from left: Karen Leatherwood, Melissa Melum, Robert Fischer, Amy Conaway, and Eldersburg Elementary School Assistant Principal Melanie Laffer.

ROLLING IN



Office of Public Information

Two dozen Carroll County residents jumped on their bicycles the morning of May 15 to take part in the region's Bike to Work Day. A mini-rally was held outside the County Office Building, where a bike rack has been relocated to encourage more employees to leave their cars at home.

Send comments, questions about recycling

Residents can ask questions and make comments online about Carroll County's recycling program.

The new feature has been added to Carroll County Government's recycling web page,

<http://csgovernment.carr.org/ccg/recycle>.

A button, which can be found on the left side of

Recycling
Comments &
Questions

the screen, allows visitors to enter a question, request a response, and provide comments about the county's recycling efforts. Simply fill in the form and click on the submit button.

The Recycling Office

welcomes comments, suggestions or questions about its programs and activities.

Carroll offers single-stream recycling. Residents can put all their recyclables in a single container.

For more information about recycling in Carroll County, call Recycling Manager Maria T. Myers at 410-386-2035.

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

MAY 7

◆ Local Management Board. Approved 3-0 changes to the by-laws for the Local Management Board regarding policy, term limits for members, and requirements of the chair. The LMB promotes the wellbeing of children and families in Carroll County and is administered by the Department of Citizen Services.

MAY 14

◆ Critical Farms program. Approved 3-0 an option to purchase a Critical Farms Program easement for \$729,750. The application submitted by Roger B. Hans would help to preserve a 143-acre farm located on Stone Road in Westminster.

◆ Rural Legacy easement. Unanimously agreed to exercise an option to purchase a Little Pipe Creek Rural Legacy easement on the Smith property in the 2400 block Old New Windsor Pike in New Windsor. Grant money will be used to purchase the property at a cost of \$631,290 for 107.2 acres of land.

◆ Hampstead annexation. Authorized 3-0 a change to the county zoning maps to reflect the annexation of the Hood property into the Town of Hampstead. The annexation involves a little more than 1 acre on the northeast side of North Main Street and will allow the property owners to receive public water service.

◆ Taneytown annexation. On a 3-0 vote, authorized another change to the county zoning maps to reflect the City of Taneytown's annexation of the Taneytown Baptist Church site, consisting of 6.2 acres of land along the north side of Sells Mill Road east of Stumptown Road. The zoning of the property changed from agricultural to residential.

◆ Equestrian Council. Agreed 3-0 to provide \$9,903 in reimbursable funds for the purchase of a tractor that will be used to maintain trails at the Carroll County

Equestrian Center. The full amount will be reimbursed to the county from the National Recreational Trails Program grant. Total cost of the tractor is \$12,379. The council is contributing the remaining \$2,476.

MAY 21

◆ Public hearing. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to close the public hearing and to approve an application to the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development for \$300,000 in Community Development Block grant funding. The money would be used to relocate Access Carroll. The health clinic serves

uninsured, low-income residents of the county.

◆ Weatherization assistance. Approved 3-0 a grant of \$202,915 for the weatherization assistance program funded by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. This Department of Citizen Services' program aids Carroll County's low-income residents, especially the elderly and handicapped, by funding repairs in private homes as well as rental units. The repairs focus on improving energy efficiency, thereby lowering energy costs. No county funds are required.

◆ County employee benefits. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with amendments to Chapter 44 of the County Code that are necessary to comply with changes in the laws governing retirement plans.

◆ Equipment purchase. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Security Equipment Co. for the purchase of three roadside flail mowers at a cost of \$55,400 per mower, for a

total of \$166,200. The mowers will be used by the Bureau of Roads Operations for general maintenance.

◆ Inmate health care. On a 3-0 vote, awarded Conmed a contract to provide health care services to inmates at the Carroll County Detention Center. The cost will be \$484,248 for the first year and \$496,354 for the second year.

◆ Environmental services. Approved 3-0 contracts with Diversified Environmental Inc. and AEG Environmental to provide the county with emergency hazardous waste removal services.

◆ Manchester annexation. Authorized 3-0 a change to county zoning maps to reflect the annexation by the Town of Manchester of 66.51 acres, including the unincorporated portion of the Manchester Valley High School site and the Lippy well site.

MAY 28

◆ Property tax rate. On a 1-2 vote, Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer's motion to adopt a tax rate of 1.028 per \$100 of assessed value failed to pass. The proposed rate was 2 cents lower than the current rate.

◆ Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Zimmer opposed, to adopt a budget that includes \$354.5 million in general operating costs.

◆ Property tax rate. Adopted 2-1, with Commissioner Zimmer opposed, the 2010 property tax rate of \$1.048 per \$100 of assessed value, which has remained unchanged for 14 years.

◆ Water and sewer rates. On a 3-

0 vote, adopted a resolution that changes the rates for water and sewer customers as of July 1.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 3-0 a \$32,472 contract to Eastern Elevator to provide maintenance for elevators in Carroll County Government buildings.

◆ Solid waste. Voted 3-0 to advertise in local papers seeking property owners who are interested in having their land evaluated for the purpose of possibly developing a new landfill.

◆ City of Taneytown annexation. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter to the City of Taneytown that pre-approves a waiver of zoning and makes recommendations regarding zoning on the annexation of 39.65 acres of land on the northwest and southeast sides of MD 194. The annexation will allow the city to improve the York Street sewer pumping station.

◆ Public transportation grant. Accepted 3-0 a grant award of \$1,569,703 from the Maryland Department of Transportation to be used for Carroll Area Transit System capital projects. The funds are made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which are intended to create jobs and promote economic growth. No county matching funds are required.

◆ Rental assistance. Voted 3-0 to accept \$9,882 in additional state grant funding for the rental allowance program that will allow the Human Services Program to help two more families.

◆ Water resource planning. On a 3-0 vote, agreed to amend a previous contract with Malcolm Pirnie Inc. for the development of a water management plan. The amount of the additional work for the state-mandated Water Resources Element costs \$59,800 and relates to the Pathways Plan proposals, including evaluating wastewater alternatives for the employment sites proposed and the Finksburg corridor.

The next Open Community Discussion time with the Board of County Commissioners is Thursday, June 4, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 311 of the County Office Building. Call 410-386-2043 for details.

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, JUNE 2

3 p.m.—Workshop on proposed amendments to the county's retirement and pension plan and its 401(k) plan—Room 124.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

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

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

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

MONDAY, JUNE 8

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

2 p.m. Circle of Caring Needs and Resources Subcommittee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

2 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council – Room 105

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, JUNE 10

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003

10 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster

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

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

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

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

10 a.m. Public hearing on amendments to the county's pension plan and 401(k) plan – Room 311

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

7 p.m. Planning Commission public information meeting on Pathways Plan – Francis Scott Key High School auditorium, 3825 Bark Hill Road, Union Bridge

MONDAY, JUNE 15

7 p.m. Planning Commission public information meeting on Pathways Plan – Century High School auditorium, 355 Ronsdale Road, Sykesville

TUESDAY, JUNE 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, JUNE 17

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

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

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

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

7 p.m. Planning Commission public information meeting on Pathways Plan – North Carroll High School auditorium, 1400 Panther Drive, Hampstead

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

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, JUNE 25

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

1 p.m. Board of Zoning Appeals – Room 003

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

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

MONDAY, JUNE 29

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

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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