

# 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*

## Waste options considered

A vote is expected soon on whether Carroll County will join neighboring Frederick County to design a waste-to-energy facility south of Frederick City.

In June, Frederick's Board of County Commissioners brought back the possibility of building a 1,500-ton-a-day incinerator that would produce electricity. Frederick would fund 60 percent of the costs, while Carroll would pay for the remaining 40 percent.

The total project is estimated to cost \$501 million. That is lower than originally thought because construction costs have dropped since February. Carroll's share of the total

would be \$200 million.

Resolutions and memoranda of understanding are being drafted by the counties. Contracts detail how the partnership would work.

Carroll County Commissioners Julia W. Gouge, Dean L. Minnich and Michael D. Zimmer chose to wait until the details of the partnership were known before taking a vote.

There are several steps that require the support of both boards before the project could be finalized. This summer's decision is whether to authorize waste management company that would build and operate the facility, Wheelabrator, to spend up to \$3 mil-

lion to plan, engineer and obtain permits.

Frederick commissioners approved that vote. If Carroll supports it as well, the two counties will split the initial costs evenly.

Before any dirt is turned, however, both counties must approve issuing bonds to finance the project. Like a homeowner taking out a mortgage, governments issue bonds to pay for buildings over several years. In this case, the debt would be paid back over the course of 30 years.

In case the project does not proceed, Carroll County is looking for at least 400 acres of land for a new landfill.

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## Construction projects take shape

The new South Carroll Senior and Community Center is expected to open early this fall. Not long afterward, crews should finish work on Carroll Community College's Building No. 4.

Commissioners toured both construction sites early in June to see how they are progressing. They also visited two locations where parks are planned, one in Hampstead and the other in Woodbine. The informational tour wrapped up with a stop at the County Maintenance Facility.



Office of Public Information  
 Work progresses on Carroll Community College's Building No. 4. The classroom suites and dining hall are accented with large windows and cozy niches throughout the 77,000-square-foot space. See page 2 for additional photos.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- You can get up-to-the-minute Carroll County Government news by following CarrollCoMD on Twitter.
- If email is more your speed, sign up for GovDelivery notices at our web page, [ccgovernment.carr.org](http://ccgovernment.carr.org). Click on the envelope icon.
- When you sign up, be sure to enter your ZIP code to get information on road closures and other news specific to your community.



# How does comprehensive plan get revised?

Every six years, counties in Maryland are required to update their comprehensive plans. These documents, sometimes called master plans, broadly outline how and where growth should occur during the next 20 years.

Carroll County is in the midst of revising its comprehensive plan. *Pathways to Carroll's Future Landscape*, as it is called, is based on feedback hundreds of residents and business owners provided between 2005-2007. That feedback, along with current and anticipated state and federal regulations, was used by county planners as they drafted *Pathways*.

Before the draft was finished, Planning Director Steven Horn held five regional meetings so residents could familiarize themselves with earlier work done by community members at small neighborhood meetings, at large conferences, and through surveys and other activities.

Once a draft is complete, Maryland law spells out what must happen.

First, the county's Planning and Zoning

Commission must send copies of the draft to neighboring counties and towns, as well as state agencies, so their officials can review it over a 60-day period.

Instead of only sending it to nearby officials, as the law requires, information on Carroll's plan was emailed to nearly 1,200 people. Another 40,767 postcards were mailed to property owners. A web site was set up with copies of the plan, information on the issues found in it, and an interactive feedback form.

Once the Planning Commission sent out the plan for review, members of that board sought public feedback at three regional meetings. Those were in addition to the public hearing required by law. A public hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, at Winters Mill High School in Westminster.

The Planning Commission members will consider all comments received during the 60-day review period, including the three regional meetings and the public hearing, as they determine how to address any changes.

After the Planning Commission approves the plan, only then it is presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

It is a common misperception that the County Commissioners have control over the plan before this point. In reality, they are removed from the process until the Planning Commission makes its recommendation.

Any feedback sent to County Commissioners Julia W. Gouge, Dean L. Minnich and Michael D. Zimmer during the review period is forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Once a recommended plan is agreed upon by the Planning Commission, it is sent to the Board of County Commissioners, who can adopt the entire plan or parts of it. The board also can choose to send the plan back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration.

Any rezoning that may take place as a result of the adopted plan would have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

## Comments to be heard on airport report

Residents and airport users can comment later this month on a report that discusses the environmental impact a runway replacement would have on the area around Carroll County Regional Airport.

Delta Airport Consultants Inc. conducted a study of 18 categories that had the potential of being affected. A finding of no significant impact was issued this spring.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the environmental assessment at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 6, in Room 003 of the County Office Building.

To read the assessment, visit <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/airport/EA>, the airport or any library branch.

## MOVING FORWARD



Commissioners last month previewed several projects. At left, they tour the new South Carroll Senior and Community Center. Below that are remains of a barn where Leister Park in Hampstead will be built. Bottom, General Services Director Tom Rio shows plans for Kringgold Park, to be situated on the land behind him.



## Senior centers start offering breakfast during week

Beginning July 1, the Bureau of Aging will offer breakfast at the five senior and community centers in Carroll County.

This new program is funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Breakfast will be served Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to people 60 years of age or older and to their spouses of

any age. Older adults may make a donation toward the cost of the meal. The cost for anyone under age 60 is \$2.

Monthly breakfast menus are available at each senior center. Breakfasts include a variety of foods and provide at least one-third of the recommended daily nutritional requirement. Mid-day lunches are also avail-

able at each center.

For more information, call your local senior center. In Mount Airy, call 410-795-1017. For the North Carroll center, call 410-386-3900. In South Carroll, call 549-1357. For Taneytown, call 410-386-2700. In Westminster, call 410-386-3850.

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

### JUNE 4

◆ Tourism signs. Voted 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge was absent) to proceed with the Tourism Area and Corridor Sign Program (TAC) established by the State Highway Administration. Signs point travelers to tourism destinations. TAC is a comprehensive statewide program that is scheduled to be complete within three years.

### JUNE 11

◆ Airport. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing to receive public comment on the environmental assessment of the Carroll County Regional Airport by the Federal Aviation Administration.

◆ Hashawha. Approved 3-0 a transfer of \$15,000 for repairs to the swimming pool at Hashawha Environmental Center.

◆ County employee benefits. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to close the public hearing and to adopt changes to Chapter 44 of the County Code related to the county employee 401K and pension retirement plans. Changes would bring the plan in alignment with federal changes and would prevent retirees from having their pensions reduced unless the cost of living standard drops two years in a row.

◆ Conservation easements. Voted 3-0 to exercise the County's option to purchase county-held conservation easements on the following:

~ Edward Louise Pascal property, consisting of 204 acres on Taneytown Pike for \$1.5 million;

~ Strawbridge Shrine Association property, consisting of 29 acres on Strawbridge Lane in New Windsor for \$107,290; and  
~ Carl E. and Deborah A. Owings property consisting 241 acres on South Springdale in New Windsor for \$1,007,360.

◆ Carroll Community College. Approved 3-0 a \$326,820 award to MT Laney for improvements to the parking lot at Carroll Community College.

◆ Senior Centers. Awarded 3-0 a \$29,892 contract to Jani-King for janitorial services at the Taneytown and Mount Airy senior centers.

◆ Federal stimulus funds. Approved 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, a \$917,052 grant award from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to be used for the weatherization assistance program. 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.

◆ Land purchase. Voted 3-0 to purchase approximately 254 acres of land in Mount Airy for \$23.5 million as a settlement of a lawsuit with Forty West Builders.

### JUNE 18

◆ Federal stimulus funds. Approved 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, an

application for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for \$684,100 in direct federal stimulus funding. The funds will be split three ways:

~ \$250,000 for a revolving loan program to help homeowners make energy conservation improvements to their homes;

~ \$419,100 for a material conservation program to increase recycling participation through the purchase of 800 recycling containers for the Freedom district; and

~ \$5,000 to cover administrative fees for the project over three years.

◆ Zoning maps. Agreed 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing a change to zoning maps to reflect the annexation of the Bean property by the City of Taneytown. The area consists of two parcels totaling 19.639 acres, which are located along the north side of MD 140 just west of Harney Road.

◆ Tables. Approved 3-0 the purchase of tables for the new South Carroll Senior and Community Center from Price Modern LLC for \$51,153.

◆ Open Space funds. Approved 3-0 an allocation of fiscal year 2010 Program Open Space funds of \$41,608 to Westminster City for renovations to an existing building in the city park that is used by community nonprofit groups.

◆ Commission on Aging. Voted 3-0 to approve changes to the Commission on Aging bylaws that address vacancies and terms.

### JULY 25

◆ New roofs. On separate 3-0 votes, awarded Xpert Xteriors contracts for roof replacement at the Wheeler Building in Westminster (\$104,777) and at the Taneytown Senior and Community Center (\$149,222).

◆ Vehicle wash building. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Brechbill and Helman for the construction of a wash building for vehicles and equipment at the Maintenance Center. The \$1 million facility will extend the useful life of major pieces of equipment.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Agreed 3-0 to issue a letter of intent to purchase six new 10-ton dump trucks from Bare Truck Center that exercises an option to purchase additional vehicles on a June 2008 contract at the previously bid price of \$125,000 per truck. Using last year's contract saved \$3,000 per truck over the 2010 price increase.

◆ Digital mapping. Voted 3-0 to award Smart Data Strategies with a contract for \$462,007 to provide mapping layer services for Carroll County. The project will add property boundary lines that will align over the existing aerial photography of 68,000 parcels.

◆ Land purchase. Approved 3-0 the transfer of \$3,950,000 from the Water Development account to the Land Bank account. The transfer is related to the purchase of 254 acres in Mount Airy. (See June 11 votes.)

# 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, JULY 1

2 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council  
– Room 003

## THURSDAY, JULY 2

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

## FRIDAY, JULY 3

County offices closed in observance of Independence Day

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

7 p.m. Public hearing on Carroll County Regional Airport environmental assessment and development plan – Room 003

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

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, JULY 9

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and governmental partners – Room 003  
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311  
10 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205

## MONDAY, JULY 13

6:30 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – Inner Pavilion, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster

## TUESDAY, JULY 14

9 a.m. Animal Matters Board of Appeals hearing – Room 003  
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Room 153, Carroll County Health Department, 290 S Center St., Westminster  
6 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission's public hearing on Pathways Plan – Winters Mill High School Auditorium, 560 Gorsuch Road, Westminster

6:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council  
– Room 003

## THURSDAY, JULY 16

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

## THURSDAY, JULY 21

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, JULY 22

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

## THURSDAY, JULY 23

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

## THURSDAY, JULY 30

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

## Financial report honored for 24th year

For the 24th year in a row, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded Carroll County with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

This year's award recognizes Carroll County's 2008 comprehensive annual financial report.

The certificate is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

An impartial judging panel wrote that Carroll's report demonstrates a "spirit of full disclosure" to communicate clearly the county's financial story.

More information on the award can be found at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org). Carroll County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2008 can be found online at <http://ccgovernent.carr.org/ccg/comp/08-cafr>.

### 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*

Email your commissioners  
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