

County Connection

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State cuts \$7.96M from Carroll

In the latest round of cuts, Carroll County agencies will lose nearly \$8 million in funding to help balance the state's budget.

The cuts are part of more than \$450 million statewide approved by the Board of Public Works on Aug. 26 as Gov. Martin O'Malley tries to balance the state's budget.

With the expected cuts, Carroll County's spending for fiscal year 2010 will be less than it was for FY2009.

It is too early to know what services will be affected as a result.

Most of Carroll's \$7.96 million in reductions will come from a pocket of money known as the highway user revenue fund. All 23 counties in Maryland had their revenues from this fund cut by 90 percent. For Carroll County and its towns, that equals \$6.37 million less than what had been budgeted.

The Carroll County Health Department, a state agency that

also receives some county funding, will also see a reduction of its state support. The 35 percent cut equals \$663,382.

Aid to police departments was cut by 35 percent as well. Towns and the county share in this reduction. County government's portion is \$318,951.

The final area hit by this round of state cuts is Carroll Community College. With a 5 percent drop in funding, CCC will receive \$362,954 less than anticipated.

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

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Flu season brings new vaccinations

Public health officials are urging people to get their seasonal influenza vaccines early this fall so they can also get inoculated against the H1N1 flu later in the season.

The vaccine for the H1N1 flu, commonly referred to as swine flu, requires two shots. Carroll County Health Officer Larry Leitch expects the H1N1 vaccines to be available in late fall.

In the meantime, people are encouraged to get their seasonal flu and pneumonia shots. As in years past, the Carroll County Health Department will offer vaccination clinics.

Anyone 18 and older can receive the seasonal flu shot at one of the following clinics:

◆ Friday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carroll County Health Department, 290 S. Center St., Westminster.

◆ Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carroll County Health Department.

◆ Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3



p.m. at the Seniors on the Go Expo, held at the Carroll County Ag Center, 700 Agricultural Center Drive, Westminster.

A special clinic is set up this year for children between 12 and 17. They can receive the shot (not the nasal spray) if a consenting adult attends with them:

◆ Thursday, Sept. 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Health Department.

Flu vaccines are \$20 for everyone not eligible for Medicare Part B. Pneumonia vaccines cost \$50 for people under 65 with a doctor's order. Medicare will be billed for eligible people ages 65 and older.

For more information, call the Flu Hotline at 410-876-3003.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 4,700 people stopped by the Carroll County Tourism booth during the Ravens Summer Training Camp at McDaniel College this summer. That's approximately 2 1/2 times as many visitors as last year.
- Guests gathered information about area restaurants, attractions and events.
- Overall, the Ravens organization reported more than 94,000 visitors to the training camp. Last year there were 80,000 people.



Carroll County Regional Airport project advances

Bids will soon be sought for the next phase of the Carroll County Regional Airport improvement project.

The Board of County Commissioners voted 2-1 to move ahead with the project, which will realign and lengthen the runway and make other safety improvements. Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed the measure during the Aug. 11 meeting. The vote was to begin acquiring land and applying for environmental permits.

A federal environmental assessment released this spring found no significant impact would occur if the project proceeded.

Commissioner Julia W. Gouge and Commissioner Dean L. Minnich cited safety as a

major factor for pushing forward with the airport expansion. Other reasons include supporting Carroll businesses and preparing for advances in aviation technology.

Currently, the separation between the existing runway and taxiway does not meet the Federal Aviation Administration's requirement for future design aircraft. The requirement is a 400-foot separation, while the local airport's separation is 300 feet.

In addition, the FAA-recommended length for runways at airports such as Carroll is more than 6,000 feet, while the existing runway is 5,100 feet long.

Zimmer opposed the project due to public concern over traffic on Md. Route 97 and

the impact on the environment and quality of life for residents in the area around the airport.

The project is expected to cost \$72.08 million, which includes the purchase of approximately 100 acres of neighboring property. The FAA will pay for 95 percent, or \$68.48 million, funded by airport user fees.

The Maryland Aviation Administration and Carroll County Government will each pay \$1.8 million toward the project. Carroll's airport generates operating revenues through aviation fuel sales and hangar leases.

— Matthew Willoughby, intern

New signs along roadways welcome travelers into Carroll

Carroll County residents and visitors will be welcomed to "feel right at home" in Carroll County with the construction of two new gateway signs. The signs, a part of an effort to redevelop and revitalize major corridors leading into the county, will be completed in the next few weeks.

The two signs under construction are located on Md. Route 140 in Finksburg and Md. Route 26 at the Liberty Reservoir. These locations were chosen to help promote redevelopment in the Finksburg corridor and, in the case of the Eldersburg sign, to fulfill a goal spelled out in the 2001 Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan.

Specific sign locations along the two high-



ways were subject to technical criteria that met State Highway Administration requirements such as maintaining clear safety zones and the ability to construct on a publicly-owned right-of-way.

The signs are being paid for out of the county's hotel tax fund, which is collected by hotel, motel and innkeepers on overnight stays, and thus is being funded primarily by visitors to Carroll County. The hotel tax legislation specifies all funds collected are dedicated to promote tourism and related efforts. Constructing welcome signs is a step in beautifying main entrances to the county and in creating positive first impressions to our visitors.

The Carroll County Departments of Planning and Economic Development worked together to complete this project. Other welcome signs are planned to be constructed as hotel tax funds allow.

Emergency Preparedness Expo kicks off with 'Step to Prep' event

Carroll County will hold its annual Emergency Preparedness Expo at TownMall of Westminster on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Part of National Preparedness Month, this event features educational booths, equipment displays, and activities for the en-

tire family designed to help increase preparedness for emergency situations.

The expo begins with a one-mile "Step to Prep" Run/Walk at 9:30 a.m. Entry for the run/walk is free, with the first 100 participants receiving a T-shirt.

Timing will be provided by the Westminster Road Runners Club. The run includes a warm-up sponsored by Gold's Gym and complementary food and drink.

The expo run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the former Steve &

Barry's store inside TownMall, located at Md. Route 140 between Center Street and Md. Route 27.

For more information or to register for the run/walk, call 410-386-2296 or 410-876-4857.

— Matthew Willoughby, intern

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

AUGUST 11

◆ Airport. Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, to proceed to the next phase of airport development program, which consists of land acquisition and environmental permitting for wetland and stream mitigation.

◆ County employee benefits. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with amendments related to the county employee 401(k) and pension retirement plans.

◆ Mount Airy Elementary School. On a 3-0 vote, approved the transfer of \$157,000 to be used for roof replacement at Mount Airy Elementary School. The funds will come from two completed roof replacement projects and from the general roofing improvements account.

◆ Training grant. Approved 3-0 a grant application by Risk Management to the Local Government Insurance Trust that would cover the cost for the compliance specialist to attend a training seminar offered by the Chesapeake Region Safety Council. The total cost for the seminar and travel is \$1,240, with no county match required.

◆ Law enforcement grant. Accepted 3-0 a grant award of \$13,882 from the Byrne Justice Assistance Funding for the Westminster Police Department. The funds will be used to convert old records for the new countywide records management system.

◆ Aging services. Voted 3-0 to approve the 2010 update to the Area Plan for Aging, which is required by the State. The plan documents comprehensive services for older adults with the greatest economic and social needs, and includes budgets for those services.

◆ Aging grant. On a 3-0 vote, gave approval for the Bureau of Aging to develop a grant application for the Living at Home (LAH) Waiver program. LAH is

When the Board meets

The Board of County Commissioners meets in regular open session most Thursdays. In addition, other public meetings of the board take place regularly.

- On the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., Commissioners invite the heads of all departments and other governmental partners for a Roundtable discussion.
- One Thursday a month, members of the public are invited to attend open community discussion time with the board. Anyone wishing to bring a topic to the commissioners' attention is welcome to speak to them during this meeting. For dates and time, call 410-386-2043.
- On Monday, Sept. 21, the Commissioners will hold a community meeting at the Lineboro Fire Hall (4224 Main Street) from 7 to 9 p.m. Residents can raise any issues related to county government.

a statewide program for people with physical disabilities, who are between the ages of 18 to 64, and need assistance with daily living. The program is designed to serve people who are in a nursing home with an interest of returning to the community, and individuals living in the community who may need nursing home services but would like to remain in the community.

◆ Housing bond allocation. Voted 3-0 to authorize \$5,344,901 in bonds be reallocated to the State Department of Housing and Community Development's Maryland Mortgage Program, which promotes home ownership. The funds help Carroll residents to purchase homes.

◆ Agricultural land preservation. Agreed 3-0 to extend agricultural preservation easement option contracts to Maryland Agricul-

tural Land Preservation Foundation applicants through the County's leveraged Installment Purchase Agreement program.

AUGUST 20

◆ Property purchase. Voted 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase a portion of the Gail Raines Property, located at 19331 Falls Road for \$7,448. The land is part of the Falls Road bridge replacement project.

◆ Tipping fee. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with a resolution reducing the tipping fee for municipal solid waste from \$76/ton to \$58/ton.

◆ Swimming pools. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to close the public hearing and adopt changes to Chapter 103 of the County Code, Planned Business Centers, to allow swimming pools in

planned business centers that are indoor, completely enclosed within a structure, and that do not have any retractable walls or roofs.

◆ Year-end budget adjustments. Approved 3-0 to transfer funds to cover five bureaus that ended the year over budget: A) The Agricultural Land Preservation program's Installment Purchase Agreements came in \$248,260 higher than planned. This will be covered by the capital fund. B) The Board of Education needed \$302,883 to cover \$13 million in bonds sold in FY09 that were planned for in FY10 because construction on school projects proceeded faster than anticipated. C) Higher than expected sales at The Maryland Wine Festival® meant larger commissions paid to the vendors. The cost of \$37,700 was more than offset by increased admissions revenue. D) The State's Attorney's Office had a payroll accrual of \$18,100 for four days at the end of the fiscal year that fell outside the budgeted payroll period. E) The final contract for the Resident Trooper Program was \$214,000 more than the estimated contract because the state increased their indirect costs from 22 percent to 30.5 percent.

AUGUST 27

◆ Public housing report. Voted 3-0 to approve and sign the fiscal year 2009 Section 8 Management Assessment Program report to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

◆ Medicaid waiver grant. Voted 3-0 to approve an application for a Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults FY10 grant for state and federal funds. The total program budget is \$267,826, of which \$74,304 is county funds. The money provides services to low-income adults who are a least 50 years old and would otherwise be in a nursing home. Carroll County has 96 participants.

Email your commissioners

Julia Gouge: jgouge@ccg.carr.org

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Michael Zimmer: mzimmer@ccg.carr.org

Or reach all 3 at Commissioners@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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners
– Room 311
3 p.m. Public workshop on solid waste tipping fees
– Room 105

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

3 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council
– Room 300A
6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission:
Pathways Plan work session – Room 003

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and governmental partners – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
11:15 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 44, Pensions and Retirement
– Room 311

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

County offices closed in observance of Labor Day

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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, SEPTEMBER 9

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission
Executive Committee – Room 105
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 Carroll County's General
Assembly Delegation, Board of Education and
County Commissioners – Board of Education

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Offices, 125 N. Court St., 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, SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Public hearing on solid waste tipping fees – Room 311
10 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205
6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission:
Pathways Plan work session – Room 003

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission:
Pathways Plan work session – Room 003

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS

Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission regular meeting, followed by Pathways plan work session
– Room 003

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and governmental partners – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission:
Pathways Plan work session – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

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
7 p.m. Utilities Advisory Board – Westminster Senior Center (game room), 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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

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