

County Connection

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Initiative strives to keep medicine out of Carroll County's waterways

What do you do with prescription medication that has expired or is no longer needed?

If you flush it down the drain or even throw it in the trash, the chemicals can eventually end up in the streams and other waterways running through Carroll County.

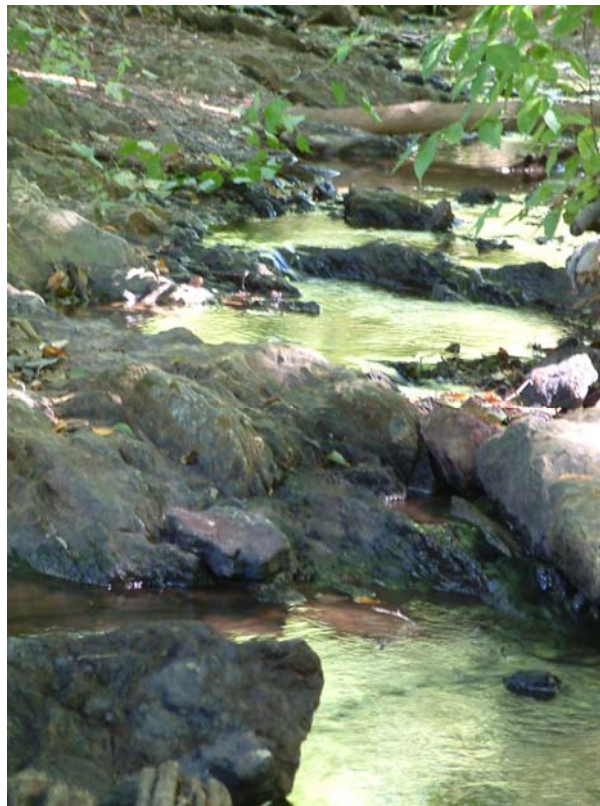
That's why the Board of County Commissioners urges residents: ***Don't rush to flush!***

Instead, the county will begin offering a new service on Oct. 24. The Prescription Medication Disposal Program will allow residents to drop off expired or unwanted prescription medication at specified collection points.

Wastewater treatment plants cannot remove chemicals and hormones that move through the sewerage system. Even pills thrown in the trash eventually can leach into water supplies. In recent years, studies have found antibiotics, hormones, antidepressants and pain relievers in waterways across the nation. It is believed that these chemicals have caused mutations in fish and other wildlife.

Carroll County's initiative is believed to be the first year-round collection program of its kind. A partnership with area law enforcement agencies, the plan has been approved by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. It was initiated by the Department of Citizen Services and will be overseen by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. Law enforcement officers will ensure the medicine is incinerated.

To launch the program, a temporary collection site will be set up during the Recycling Office's next Household Hazardous Waste collection event. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, residents can bring their unused prescriptions to the county's Maintenance Facil-



ity at 1250 Old Meadow Branch Road, north of Westminster (off Route 97). After the kick-off event, residents can take their prescription medications to one of four police stations: the Westminster Police Department at 36 Locust St.; the Taneytown Police Department at 120 E. Baltimore St.; the Sykesville Police Department at 7547 Main St.; and Greenmount Satellite Office of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office at 2255 Hanover Pike.



The program only accepts expired or unwanted prescription medication, including pet medication. Over-the-counter drugs and medical equipment, such as needles, cannot be accepted.

For more information, contact Jolene Sullivan at 410-386-3600.

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

A local treatment program recently earned national recognition for the work it does for Carroll County families.

The Brief Strategic Family Therapy program, which is run by the Youth Services Bureau and the Local Management Board, won a 2009 Science and Service Award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Carroll's program offers short-term, family-based therapy to help children ages 6 to 18. It is designed to eliminate or reduce drug use and behavioral problems.

SAMHSA is a public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

County offers retirement incentive to 155

The Board of County Commissioners has authorized a retirement incentive plan for County Commissioner employees.

Approximately 155 employees are eligible to participate in this plan. The action was approved to create flexibility as commissioners take steps to address Carroll County's changing fiscal situation.

There are 658 positions under the County Commissioners. Some of those remain vacant because of a year-long hiring freeze.

County Commissioner employees do not include employees of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office (including the detention center), Carroll County Public Schools or Carroll County Circuit Court, Carroll County State's Attorney.

The incentive offer is the first of what will be a multi-step process to identify program cuts and restructure county government. Eligible employees will have until Oct. 30 to decide whether to participate in

the plan. Those who choose to participate will retire effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Salary savings from the second half of the fiscal year will cover the incentive plan costs.

Until the deadline to confirm participation, no estimate will be available of how much money could be saved in coming years. There is no target, as the plan is voluntary.

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

SEPTEMBER 3

◆ Water and sewer plan. On separate 3-0 votes, agreed to close a public hearing and adopt an amendment to the Water and Sewerage Master Plan regarding changes to the Town of Manchester's comprehensive plan. The amendment will be sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment for its final approval.

◆ Purchase of property. Voted 3-0 to exercise the option to purchase the Krznarich property at 122 Manchester Ave. in Westminster for \$394,000. The property is part of the Greenwood Campus project.

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

◆ Appeal hearing. After hearing testimony by Jennie A. Ricker on behalf of Patapsco Homes, upheld 3-0 an assessment of \$300 for weed abatement for a property on Lineboro Road in Manchester.

◆ Child support enforcement. Approved 3-0 the Circuit Court cooperative agreement for fiscal year 2010 – \$20,433 from the Department of Health and Human Services and \$12,362 in matching county funds—which will provide partial funding for

Community time

The Board of County Commissioners offers time for community members to speak in public session. At 9:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month, residents may address the board concerning county-related issues. This month's session is scheduled for Oct. 15th. For more information, call the Commissioners' Office at 410-386-2043.

employee salaries and benefits and operating expenses related to child support efforts.

◆ Road improvements. Awarded 3-0 a \$414,433 contract to C.J. Miller for improvements to Falls Road from Hoffmanville Road to Roller Road.

SEPTEMBER 10

◆ Tipping fees. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing on a proposed amendment to solid waste tipping fees. The record was to be kept open for five business days for further public comment.

◆ Agricultural land preservation. Agreed 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase water resource protection and land conservation easements as part of the Patapsco Road Watershed Initiative for \$370,000. The land consists of

34.91 acres at 2001 Bethel Road, Finksburg, and is owned by Dr. Chitrachedue and Dr. Vimala M. Naganna. On a separate 3-0 vote, approved the transfer of funds from the Patapsco Road Watershed project to the Agricultural Land Preservation project.

◆ Fire company loan. Approved 3-0 a loan request from Manchester Fire Company for \$270,000 for the purchase of 3.6 acres of land on Wilhelm Lane in Manchester. The land will be used as a training ground for fire service personnel. On a separate 3-0 vote, executed a resolution declaring the County's intent to reimburse expenditures with debt proceeds (from the sale of bonds).

◆ Town/County agreements. On a 3-0 vote, approved the fiscal year 2010 agreements with the

Town of Manchester and the City of Taneytown. The agreements outline how the County and towns participate in planning and other government functions. The agreements also include direct grants to the towns – \$250,759 for Manchester and \$369,480 for Taneytown – that are based on the size of the towns.

◆ Child support enforcement. Approved the Carroll County Sheriff's Office cooperative agreement for fiscal year 2010 – \$131,952 from the Department of Health and Human Services and \$79,847 in matching county funds—which will provide partial funding for employee salaries and benefits and operating expenses related to child support efforts.

◆ Vehicle purchase. Approved 3-0 the purchase of one new one-ton dump truck for \$56,875 from Kip Killmon's Tysons Ford. The truck will be used by the Facilities Bureau for general maintenance.

◆ Fuel tank. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Petroleum Services for \$94,269 to supply and install a new 20,000-gallon underground fuel tank at the Maintenance Center. The new fiberglass tank has a 30-year life expectancy and replaces a 20-year old steel tank.

Seniors on the Go Expo planned for Oct. 14 at Shipley Arena

Seniors and caregivers from across Carroll County are invited to attend the fifth annual "Seniors on the Go Expo" on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The Expo focuses on the needs and interests of older adults, their families and caregivers. Last year's event drew more than 800 participants.

This year, for the first time, the Health Department will offer flu and pneumonia shots throughout the event.

More than 100 exhibitors will be in attendance. Learn about the programs, products

and services available for older residents and their loved ones. Exhibitors include financial planners, travel agencies, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, home care providers, home improvement contractors, and more.

The Center for the Study of Aging at McDaniel College and the Carroll Hospital Center will present seminars on diabetes (10:30 a.m.), Medicare (11:15 a.m., 12:15 and 2 p.m.) Alzheimer's disease (11:30 a.m.) and nutrition and exercise (1:15 p.m.): All seminars are free.

Never Too Late Band will perform from

10:30 a.m. to noon. A Cane Fu demonstration takes the stage from 1-1:20 p.m. and Joyous Voices will stroll through the arena singing between 1:30 and 3 p.m. Door prizes will be offered again this year.

This year's event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Danele Shipley Memorial Arena of the Carroll County Ag Center. The center is located at 706 Agriculture Center off Gist Road in Westminster.

There is no charge to attend the Expo and parking is free. For more information, please call 410-386-3800.

Votes Continued from Page 2

◆ Technology services. Voted 3-0 to approve the purchase of an Avamar data storage and backup server device from IP DataSystems for \$193,735. This equipment will expand the County's data storage capabilities and provide an additional copy of the County's data for disaster recovery.

SEPTEMBER 17

◆ Mount Airy annexation. Agreed 3-0 to sign a letter to the Town of Mount Airy that pre-approves a waiver of zoning and makes recommendations regarding zoning on the annexation of 8.336 acres of land on the east and northeast sides of Buffalo Road (former Rigler property). The county's recommendation is for a higher density zoning than is proposed, which would conform to the comprehensive plan for Mount Airy. The waiver gives the town options for zoning but the final decision on the annexation and zoning will be made by town officials.

◆ Transportation priority. Voted 3-0 to sign a letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation prepared by the county's Department of Planning outlining transportation priorities for 2009-2010. Priority No. 1 remains the MD 32 reconstruction/dualization

north of Interstate 70 in Howard County to MD 26 in Freedom, and number two is the bypass of MD 140 in Taneytown.

◆ Property purchase. Voted 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase the Roger Mann property, located at 737 Old Baltimore Road for \$625,000. This property is part of the Market Street Extended project that will allow traffic to cross MD 140 and continue to Old Westminster Pike.

◆ Tipping fees. Approved 2-0 (Commissioner Julia W. Gouge abstained) a resolution to temporarily set tipping fees at \$58 per ton for municipal solid waste and \$76 per ton for construction and demolition debris and sewage sludge. All other fees will be unchanged.

SEPTEMBER 24

◆ State Aid for Police Protection. On a 3-0 vote, approved a grant application to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention for \$592,339 to reimburse the county for police protection for the Sheriff's Office and Resident Trooper program.

◆ Debt policy. Adopted 3-0 a resolution stating the county's debt policy as required by a new Maryland law. The policy, which formalizes practices that the county has historically followed and incorporates many of the recommended practices adopted

by the Government Finance Officers Association, will be submitted to the State Treasurer.

◆ Town/County agreements. Approved 3-0 the fiscal year 2010 agreements with the Towns of Union Bridge and Sykesville. The agreements outline how the County and towns participate in planning and other government functions. The agreements also include direct grants to the towns – \$71,084 for Union Bridge and \$236,521 for Sykesville – that are based on the size of the towns.

◆ Housing services. Authorized 3-0 the Department of Citizen Services to use \$193,500 of housing reserve funds to pay for two positions: a housing counselor and a Community Service Point analyst.

◆ Approved 3-0 the purchase of three solids handling pumps from C&D Municipal for \$74,448 to be used at the Lake Forest Pump Station (one) and the Carroll Highlands Pump Station (two).

◆ County employee healthcare. Awarded 3-0 contracts to the following firms: United Healthcare for medical coverage; Medco for prescription drugs; and Cigna and Delta Dental for dental plans.

SEPTEMBER 29

◆ Child support enforcement. On a 3-0 vote, approved the State's Attorney's Office cooperative agreement for fiscal year 2010 –

\$555,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services and \$336,025 in matching county funds—which will provide partial funding for employee salaries and benefits and operating expenses related to child support efforts.

◆ Town/County agreements. Approved 3-0 the fiscal year 2010 agreements with the Towns of Hampstead and Mount Airy. The agreements outline how the County and towns participate in planning and other government functions. The agreements also include direct grants to the towns – \$335,927 for Hampstead and \$143,609 for Mount Airy – that are based on the size of the towns.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 3-0 a contract to Thompson Gas to provide propane gas to various county locations at a cost of \$1.429 per gallon.

◆ Property purchase. Voted 3-0 to exercise an option to purchase a conservation easement on the Elinor M. and Donald R. Hull property for \$765,000 and also agreed to sign a resolution for the installment purchase agreement. The 173.6529 acres of land are located at 955 Pinch Valley Road in Westminster.

◆ Public Safety communication. Authorized 3-0 the Office of Public Safety to proceed with upgrading outdated Motorola radio consoles at a cost of \$154,167.

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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

8 a.m. Plumbing Advisory Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster
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, OCTOBER 12

County offices closed in observance of Columbus Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll

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County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center St., Westminster
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Room 153, Carroll County Health Department, 290 S. Center St., Westminster
6:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

7:30 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
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
2:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners' annual meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation – Room 003

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission: Pathways Plan work session – Room 003

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
Noon Electrical Advisory Board. A portion of the meeting will be closed for the exam and grading of the exam. – Room 124C
7 p.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission: Pathways Plan work session – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

1:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Piney Run Nature Center, 30 Martz Road, Sykesville

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission: Pathways Plan work session – 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.



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CARROLL COUNTY

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