

# County Connection

<http://ccgovernment.carr.org>

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NOVEMBER 2009



## Planning board rejects Pathways

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted last month to halt work on the Carroll County Comprehensive Plan, known as the Pathways to Carroll's Future Landscape, and direct staff instead to revise the County's 2000 Master Plan.

That revision is to be submitted along with the state-mandated Water Resources Element by the end of November.

Comprehensive and master plans are different names for the same document, which is designed to direct growth outside of municipalities over the



next 20 years.

Since 1992, the State of Maryland has required that such plans be reviewed every six years. Pathways would have been the first major update to Carroll County's growth guidelines since 1964.

The Pathways process began

in June 2005 with scores of community meetings, surveys and conferences. Input from the community outreach effort was compiled by the Department of Planning.

In April 2009, a draft of the Pathways Plan was presented by the Planning and Zoning Commission for public review.

CARROLL COUNTY  
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a great place to work  
a great place to play*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pay at your library	2
Senior center to open	2
Votes	3
Upcoming meetings	4

## Budget trimmed to re-balance FY10

Several road projects that had been planned for the current fiscal year have been eliminated in an effort to rebalance the fiscal year 2010 budget.

Reduced income from both the State of Maryland and local revenue sources led to the need to reduce spending by \$11 million to \$15 million.

Cut from the budget were plans to pave Albert Rill, Turkeyfoot and John Pickett roads, as well as several smaller, undesignated gravel roads. The move will save \$5.5 million.

A program used to preserve neighborhood roads also was put on hold for the year. Savings from the moratorium on micropaving, as it is known, should equal \$1.3 million in FY10.

Several items have come in under budget, thanks to lower-than-expected fuel

Continued on page 2

### TRICK OR TREAT



Photo: Department of Economic Development

Trick-or-treaters from Carroll Child Care Center select goodies from a basket held by Bonnie Staub in the Carroll County Department of Economic Development. Each year around Halloween, children from the center visit the County Office Building looking for candy, which is donated by county employees.

### DID YOU KNOW?



- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday.
- When you change your clocks, it is a good idea to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

## Pay bills at any Carroll library circulation desk

Next time you go to the library, you can check out a book, surf the Internet and pay your tax bill.

Starting Monday, Nov. 2, Carroll County residents will be able to pay their property taxes and their county utility bills at any of Carroll County Public Library's six branches.

This partnership between the Carroll County Collections Office and CCPL creates expanded hours and more convenient locations for paying county bills.

The service will be available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Residents can pay at the circulation desk of any branch. Check or money order payments are preferred, made payable to the Commissioners of Carroll County. No service fees will be charged.

Billing questions can be answered at the County Office Building during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or by calling the Collections Office at 410-386-2971.

Account balances can be checked

online at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/paybill>.

Please note that the library staff can only accept water and sewer bills issued by the County, not those billed by cities or towns.

"Carroll County's libraries get more traffic than any other system in the state, so they were an obvious choice for a partnership to make bill paying more convenient," Comptroller Rob Burk said.

"We are pleased to offer our customers another service to make their trips to the library even more productive," CCPL Director Lynn Wheeler added.

## South Carroll Senior and Community Center to open soon

Later this month, regular guests at the South Carroll Senior and Community Center on Bartholow Road will pack up their gear and head for a new facility four miles away.

The old center will be closed on Monday, Nov. 16. Seniors can start coming to the new center at 5928 Mineral Hill Road in Eldersburg on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

The 31,000-square-foot center sits on more than 20 acres and includes a gymnasium that will be used both by seniors and recreation councils.

Cost to construct the building is expected to come in at \$9.5 million, which is more than \$2 million under the budgeted amount.

Among the environmentally friendly features of the center is a geothermal heating and cooling system.



Photo: Bureau of Aging

*The new South Carroll Senior and Community Center, shown here during construction this spring, will open officially on Dec. 2. It is the first such center to include a gymnasium, which will be made available to recreation councils.*

Architects from Colimore Gallow Inc. designed the building. It was constructed

by Roy Kirby and Sons Contractors.

## Budget

*continued from page 1*

costs, debt service, policing and general operations costs, totaling another \$1.4 million. Another \$1.9 million was saved

when a number of capital projects, including the South Carroll Senior and Community Center and the road to Manchester Valley High School, were completed for less than planned. Savings of \$1.1 million were realized by not filling

positions as they became vacant. Finally, \$4 million from the County's reserve for contingencies fund was designated to help cover the revenue drop.

These actions were necessary to position the County so that

its budget would be balanced when the fiscal year ends June 30, 2010.

Budget Director Ted Zaleski stressed, "This does not ease the difficulties we face in the coming years."

## Votes, actions taken by Board of County Commissioners in October

### OCTOBER 6

◆ **Housing.** Voted 3-0 to reduce housing voucher payment standards from 110 percent to 100 percent beginning Oct. 1, 2009, in response to the adjusted fair market rents determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

◆ **Federal stimulus funds.** Approved 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award for \$684,100 in direct federal stimulus funding. The funds will be split three ways:

~ \$250,000 for a revolving loan program to help Carroll County 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.

### OCTOBER 15

◆ **Appeal hearing.** After hearing testimony by Blaine Harman, upheld 3-0 an assessment of \$250 for weed abatement for property at 1516 Francis Scott Key Highway, Keymar. In a later vote, agreed 3-0 to lower the fine to \$150.

◆ **Housing grant.** Approved 3-0 an application for grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. The program provides supportive services for participating Section 8 housing recipients to enable them to become economically self sufficient.

◆ **Mentoring.** Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, to accept a grant of \$130,626 for a Local Youth Mentoring Initiative by the Local Management Board. Funds come from the U.S. Justice Department through the American Recovery and Investment Act. The money will 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.

◆ **Town/County agreement.** Approved 3-0 the fiscal year 2010 agreement with the Town of New Windsor, in which the county and town agree to the sharing of funds and participation in planning and other government functions. The agreement includes a direct grant to the town for \$68,873, which is based on the town's population.

◆ **Budget.** Agreed 3-0 to adopt recommendations for balancing the FY 10 budget due to state budget cuts and revenue changes. *(See story on page 1 for details.)*

### OCTOBER 28

◆ **Bond resolution.** Voted 3-0 to sign a resolution authorizing \$60 million in general obligation bonds. Money from the sale of the bonds will pay for previously approved capital projects and loans to volunteer fire companies. In addition, \$8.06 million will be used to re-fund (similar to refinancing) outstanding bonds from 1998. The move will save approximately \$462,000 over the next two years.

◆ **Technology services.** Approved 3-0 a contract with Mitchell Humphrey & Co. for \$140,000 to upgrade financial management software, convert current software and data to a new platform, and provide

training for staff.

◆ **Storm water management.** Awarded 3-0 a \$278,287 contract to Thomas Bennett and Hunter of Westminster for the installation of storm water management facilities that are part of in Phase 3 of the Upper Patapsco watershed improvement project.

◆ **Rural Legacy easements.** Agreed 3-0 to exercise two options to purchase easements on the following Upper Patapsco Rural Legacy properties: on 81.7 acres of land at 3100 Snydersburg Road, Hampstead, owned by Deborah Ann Boog-Sherman and Frederick Eugene Boog for \$500,000; and on 27.3 acres of land at Wesley and Emory Roads, Finksburg, owned by C. Richard Weaver and Elila C. Weaver for \$157,740. The State funds both purchases.

◆ **Domestic violence.** On separate 3-0 votes, approved two applications for grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The first is for \$48,325 to help fund the Sheriff's Office's Domestic Violence Unit. The County must match the grant with \$8,268 in cash and \$59,398 in in-kind services. The award includes an additional \$26,000 beyond what was originally allocated for federal fiscal year 2008.

The second grant totaled \$66,993 to partially fund the prosecutor's salary at the State's Attorney's Office's

Domestic Violence Unit. The County covers the cost of benefits for the prosecutor as well as salary and benefits for the unit coordinator, for a total cost to the County of \$104,921.

◆ **Senior assisted living subsidy.** Voted 3-0 to approve an application for \$101,698 in state grant funds toward the Senior Assisted Living Group Home Subsidy Program. The program helped 14 individuals in the county last year.

◆ **Behavioral Health and Addictions Council.** On a 3-0 vote, agreed to task the council to use a new model for treatment. Known as the Comprehensive Continuous Integrated Systems of Care, the initiative works with people who are dealing with both psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

◆ **Housing rehabilitation.** Approved 3-0 participation in the FY10 Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program and accept the allocation of \$46,783. The program helps income-qualified seniors to rehabilitate their homes, remove lead hazards, and improve indoor plumbing.

◆ **Carroll County Regional Airport.** Voted 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed, to award a contract to Delta Airport Consultants for design and engineering services for airport-related projects.

**Any member of the public can speak to the County Commissioners about county-related topics during monthly community time. The next community time is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. On Thursday, Nov. 19th.**

# 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, NOVEMBER 4

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority  
– Room 105

2:30 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council  
– Room 300A

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and governmental partners – Room 003

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

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

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

More county news at  
[ccgovernent.carr.org](http://ccgovernent.carr.org)  
or watch CCG 24 TV!

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

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

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

County offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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

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

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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, NOVEMBER 18

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

3 p.m. Circle of Caring Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

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

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

County offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:30 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission  
– Room 003

## Read newsletter online each month

If you would like to know when a new edition of Carroll County Government's monthly "County Connection" is posted online, sign up for our email notification service.



Each month, you will receive an email with a link to the latest edition. This keeps you from having to deal with large attachments that can clog up your inbox.

To subscribe to this free service, go to <http://ccgovernent.carr.org/ccg/pubinfo>.

### Email your commissioners

[commissioners@ccg.carr.org](mailto:commissioners@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*