

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warming Centers to Open

Westminster, Thursday, February 11, 2016 – The National Weather Service is forecasting extremely low temperatures along with the possibility of wind chills below zero for Carroll County from Friday, February 12th until Monday, February 15th. Due to this anticipated cold weather, Warming Centers will be available throughout Carroll County beginning on Friday, February 12, 2016. Carroll County's Department of Citizen Services will operate six warming centers around the County and Carroll County Public Library branches will also be open and available to anyone in need of a warm place. All residents who are vulnerable to extreme cold and who do not have sufficient heat in their homes are encouraged to seek warmth in any of the following locations during the hours listed below:

- From 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday
 - Mount Airy Senior and Community Center, 703 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy
 - North Carroll Senior and Community Center, 2328 Hanover Pike, Greenmount
 - South Carroll Senior and Community Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Road, Eldersburg
 - Taneytown Senior and Community Center, 220 Roberts Mill Road, Taneytown
 - Westminster Senior and Community Center, 125 Stoner Avenue, Westminster
- From 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday
 - Citizen Services Office Building, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
- From 9:00 AM to 8:45 PM, Monday through Thursday; 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday and Saturday; 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Sunday
 - Eldersburg Branch Carroll County Public Library, 6400 Hemlock Drive, Eldersburg
 - Finksburg Branch Carroll County Public Library, 2265 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg
 - Mt. Airy Branch Carroll County Public Library, 705 Ridge Road, Mt. Airy
 - North Carroll Branch Carroll County Public Library, 2255 Hanover Pike, Greenmount
 - Taneytown Branch Carroll County Public Library, 10 Grande Drive, Taneytown
 - Westminster Branch Carroll County Public Library, 50 East Main Street, Westminster

The Citizen Services Office Building, as well as all Senior and Community Centers and public library branches will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of the President's Day holiday.

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CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

Additional options for keeping warm are available during the day:

- On Our Own [(410) 751-6600] provides a Cold Shelter at 265 East Main Street, Westminster from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM (until 8:00 PM on Wednesdays). On Our Own will be operating on President's Day, Monday, February 15.
- Stores, malls, restaurants
- Churches
- Neighbor's home

For after-hours cold shelter needs: Human Services Programs (HSP) of Carroll County, Inc. operates a Cold Weather Shelter at 127 Stoner Avenue, Westminster overnight from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM during the cold weather season. Information about the Cold Weather Shelter can be obtained by calling 410-857-8473. In times when overflow spaces is needed, HSP has partnered with the Westminster Rescue Mission to provide transportation to a limited number of alternative overnight accommodations.

The Carroll County Department of Public Safety - Emergency Management encourages people to follow these safety tips when temperatures are extremely cold:

- Minimize outside activities, particularly among the elderly and very young. Check on family members and neighbors who may be more vulnerable to the cold.
- Pets are also sensitive to the cold; remember to consider your pets' needs when planning outside activities.
- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing rather than a single layer of heavy clothing. Wear a hat and mittens/gloves to stay warmer.
- Be aware of frostbite. If a part of the body loses feeling and the skin feels waxy or looks white or grey, warm gently and seek medical help.
- Watch out for hypothermia. Shivering, memory loss, confusion, slurred speech, and drowsiness are all warning signs. Seek medical attention for signs of hypothermia.
- Use caution with space heaters. For more safety tips when using space heaters, see <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/pubsafe/docs/FEMA-winter-fire-safety.pdf?x=1447771794130>

For more information on local cold weather resources, including energy assistance, visit the Carroll County Health Department at <http://cchd.maryland.gov/cold-weather/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CarrollCountyHealthDeptMD/>

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