

## Board of County Commissioners

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## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Board of County Commissioners Open Session Highlights from February 18, 2016

Westminster, Thursday, February 18, 2016 –The Office of Tourism presented information on two programs that are available at the Farm Museum during the *Positively Carroll* segment of today's agenda. The Farm Museum now has a Wedding Guide booklet to help brides plan for their special day. Victorian Teas have resumed for the 2016 season, with several themed teas available during the coming year. Anyone interested in booking a wedding or tea is encouraged to do so early. Information on events at the Farm Museum may be found on their [web site](#).

The Commissioners opened the session by proclaiming February 20-27, 2016 as FFA Week in Carroll County. In their proclamation, the Commissioners cited the positive difference FFA makes in the lives of students as well as promoting citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism, and cooperation.

Public Works provided an update on the success of the Ag Tire Collection Program, with the most recent event resulting in the removal and disposal of 378 tons of tires from county farms. The county looks forward to partnering with the Maryland Department of the Environment for future events.

The Solid Waste Advisory Council and staff presented several short and long-term recommendations for diverting and recycling some of the waste stream within the county, and how to effectively implement an integrated system of solid waste management and recycling that allows sufficient flexibility to react to changes in regulations, technology, and market conditions. The Commissioners requested additional information on recycling options, restructuring of fees to offset costs without dis-incentivizing recycling programs, Pay As You Throw programs, and composting options. These updates will be provided during a future session of the Board.

Recreation and Parks provided two updates. Director Jeff Degitz reported on the success of the Hap Baker Firearms Facility, which continues to see increased use. The facility is open to both county residents and the general public; with 450 members and over 12,500 in annual attendance in 2015. A survey has been distributed to users and remains open through the end of the month. Director Degitz also presented a number of proposed changes to Chapter 94 of the County Code. These changes include regulation on the use of metal detectors, remote control and unmanned rockets, drones, and geo-catching on park property. The proposed changes will now go forward for public hearing and comment.

## CARROLL COUNTY

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Ed Singer, County Health Officer, presented an update on state funding changes. The county will decline a six month grant, which is designed to act as a bridge for funding for behavioral health services. The reason for declining this grant is that the county is ready to go forward now with changes mandated by the state. Carroll County will serve as a model for the state for delivery of services for ambulatory substance abuse patients. This decision will not result in a loss of funding for the county, but allows for payment from a different funding stream.

Several bids were awarded during today's session. Concerns were raised by several Commissioners that some of the bids approved today were not awarded to Carroll County businesses. Commissioner Wantz, in particular, expressed his preference for awarding contracts to county businesses as a means of supporting local business. The Commissioners were reassured that the bids recommended for approval represented the best price for the project and that staff will continue to reach out to local businesses when requesting bids.

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