

COUNTY CONNECTION

ISSUE 1 - Winter 2024 Newsletter



New Officers



Winter Preparedness



EDLU Study



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Hello Carroll County Maryland!

Welcome to County Connection! The new Carroll County Government e-newsletter serves as a channel to share important information and updates about what is happening in your local county government and the community.

[Subscribe](#) now and get connected with your community!

GOVERNMENT UPDATES



New Officers

On December 14, 2023 during Open Session, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners elected new officers for a term of one year. Effective immediately, the officers are:

President - Commissioner Kenneth A. Kiler, District 2

Vice President - Commissioner Joseph A. Vigliotti, District 1

carrollcountymd.gov

Winter Preparedness



Winter is here and Carroll County has been busy preparing for the winter season. ROADS Operations is ready to treat county roads with over 80 team members at-the-ready, 80 pieces of snow and ice equipment, a stockpile of 13,000 tons of salt, and 31,000 gallons of liquid salt brine. In an effort to increase public awareness, a three-part series was recently published providing information and updates, highlights of winter safety tips, and winter resources for Carroll residents.

Please select these links to learn more:

[Carroll Roads Operations Prepares for Winter Conditions](#)
[Winter Driving Safety and Tips](#)
[Resident Resources During Winter](#)

Some important notes:

Please do not clear driveways into the roadways.

Please do not remove county-placed snow stakes from easements; they are very important for the safety of the snowplow and salting drivers as well as helping to reduce property damage to residents' yards and marking roadway pipes for the county's storm drain system.

Residents are encouraged to follow trusted weather sources, such as the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#) and local news media, to stay informed about predicted frozen precipitation or severe cold temperatures.

If your mailbox is damaged during the plowing operations, please call ROADS at 410-386-6717 or submit a request to [See Click Report](#) on the county's website to request repair/replacement of the mailbox.

Carroll County Government weather-related closures are issued by news release and are also noted on the county's website homepage carrollcountymd.gov. Please take your time and be cautious out there!

**Winter Road and Driving Preparations -
Carroll County, MD Video**

carrollcountymd.gov



2024 State of the County



Carroll County
CHAMBER
of Commerce



On Tuesday, January 9, 2024, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners' five members presented during the 2024 State of the County event. Each year, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce holds the event at the Carroll County Arts Center in Westminster. Watch Commissioners Vigliotti, Kiler, Gordon, Guerin, and Rothstein give their presentations now!



**Watch the event from
Tuesday, January 9, 2024
[here.](#)**



CARROLL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE STUDY

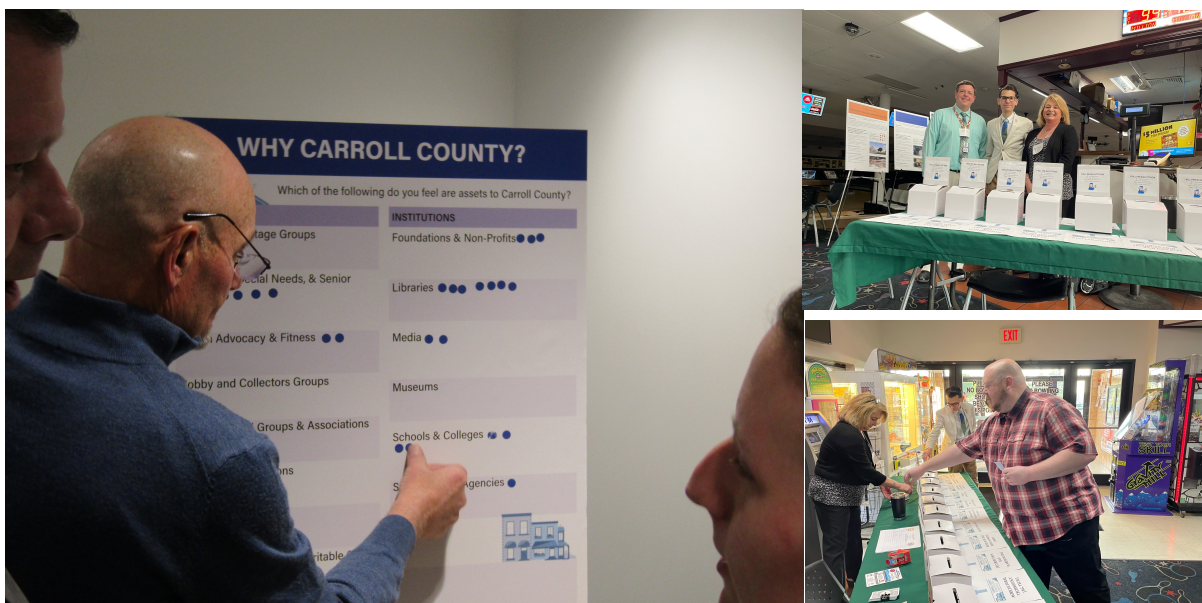


On December 21, 2023 the Carroll County Commissioners received a presentation from the Departments of Planning and Land Management and Economic Development highlighting findings from the recently completed Economic Development and Land Use study. The presentation was for information purposes only, in support of upcoming efforts to update the County Master Plan.

On September 8, 2022, the commissioners approved a contract award to Wantman Group, Inc. (WGI) to perform an Economic Development and Land Use Study. The departments worked with WGI on data research and community outreach to compile information for the comprehensive study. Staff and WGI presented progress reports on January 26, 2023, and April 27, 2023, to the board. On November 14, 2023, the draft study and associated findings were presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Following an opportunity to fully review the study, a follow up meeting was held on November 29th, with the commission, for detailed discussions related to questions and study topics. The commission had favorable feedback regarding the study and the final version was presented for discussion with the commissioners. See the county website for more information on the study.



Clockwise: Carroll Yingling of Westminster, MD participates in the February 2023 workshop. Andrew Gray, Commissioner Vigliotti, and Paige Sunderland attend workshop in Taneytown. Jay Meashey casts his vote.



Ag Preservation

Program Approaches 80,000 acres!



Above: Runnymede Farm on
Uniontown Rd, Westminster, MD

Carroll County is making progress on its goal to preserve 100,000 acres of agricultural land. The county preserved 1,772.95 acres in calendar year 2023 which adds up to 79,599.66 total acres preserved to date.

To learn more about Carroll County's Agricultural Preservation program, please visit the [website](#).



**CARROLL COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
2024**



NEW YEAR'S DAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 1

INDEPENDENCE DAY
THURSDAY, JULY 4

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 15

LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

PRESIDENTS' DAY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

COLUMBUS DAY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

GOOD FRIDAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 29

VETERANS' DAY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 27

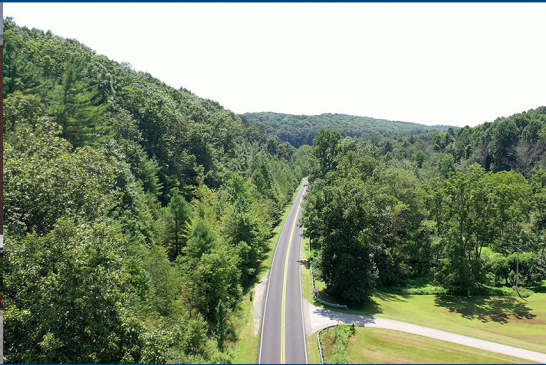
THANKSGIVING DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

JUNETEENTH
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

CHRISTMAS DAY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

News Across the County



Cold Weather Shelter Information

For Those Seeking Shelter: Human Services Programs (HSP) of Carroll County, Inc. operates a year-round night by night shelter serving individuals that are 18 and over and street homeless. The shelter is located at 127 Stoner Avenue in Westminster and accepts nightly participants on a walk-in basis starting at 7:00 pm with stays through 8:00 am the following morning. Contact 410-386-6679 for more information. Hot food is available. You must enter no later than 10:00 pm.



**Carroll County
Public Schools is the
largest employer in
Carroll County.**



MDOT SHA Roadway Project Updates



**STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION**

For current Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration project updates across the state, please monitor the state's current calendar year projects in the [state project portal](#) and the projects by district in the [district project portal](#).

Significant Carroll County projects include:

[MD 91 \(Emory Road\) bridge replacement project at the crossing of North Branch of the Patapsco River and Maryland Midland Railroad](#): this project will cause both bridges on Route 91 in Finksburg to be closed and traffic detoured during construction.

[MD 851 \(Springfield Avenue\) Main Street to Warfield Road](#) to replace and upgrade the drainage system

[140 and MD 496 \(Bachmans Valley Road\) Planning and Environmental Linkages \(PEL\) Study](#) – currently in the planning phase.

Other state projects in Carroll County are listed and updated [here](#).

Carroll County Government's Department of Public Works Road and Utilities Construction Project Schedule is updated weekly on [the county website](#).

Did You
MISS
It?



BIG FISH CONTEST WINNER!

The 2023 Big Fish Contest at Piney Run Park was won by Mr. Frank Bevard who landed a 41 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch striped bass weighing over 30 pounds. Mr. Bevard collected his check from the Board of County Commissioners on December 21, 2023. It's never too early to start planning for next year's contest which begins on March 1, 2024, the first day of Piney Run Park's 2024 open season.

For more information about recreational programs and parks, please visit ccrecpark.org or call 410-386-2103.

BE A PART OF HISTORY!

Carroll County Fire & EMS
carrollcountymd.gov



Make A Difference



Carroll County Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) made significant progress in 2023. In March 2023, DFEMS hired the first group of county uniform personnel comprised of twelve Station Lieutenants and four Shift Commander Lieutenants. These individuals assisted in the development of department policies and the multi-step hiring process for the next group of candidates.

In June, DFEMS hired 72 uniform personnel including Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians, Firefighter/Paramedics, Paramedics (EMS only) and Fire Apparatus Driver/Operators (FADO). June 8, 2023, a historic day, marked the initiation of 24/7 staffing by Carroll County DFEMS. In other words, the first day of Carroll County DFEMS employees working in the fire stations alongside volunteers. The first three fire stations to be staffed by DFEMS were Westminster, Taneytown, and Sykesville, followed by Mt. Airy, Manchester, and Reese beginning on July 6, 2023. DFEMS also staffs three paramedic chase cars stationed throughout the county. The chase cars help meet the department's goal of assuring consistent delivery of quality emergency services in a timely and efficient manner. Additional staff were hired for the effective administration of the department.

DFEMS Next Round of Hiring in 2024

2024 DFEMS plans include hiring more uniform personnel. Applications are open this month and close in February. These employees will start shift work on or after July 1, 2024. Watch for career opportunities [here](#). The department looks forward to working together with the volunteer fire companies to make this combination career/volunteer system excel!

SBA Offers Disaster Loan Program Assistance Due to Drought



On November 7, 2023 the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced in a [press release](#) that federal Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are available in Maryland for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations with economic losses due to the drought conditions that began on Sept. 5, 2023. The declaration includes Frederick and Washington counties and the contiguous Allegany, Carroll, Howard, and Montgomery in Maryland.

The SBA news release states that applicants may apply online via the SBA's secure website at sba.gov/disaster and should apply under SBA declaration # 20069. Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (if deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services), or sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA's website at sba.gov/disaster. For more information, please view the [SBA press release](#).

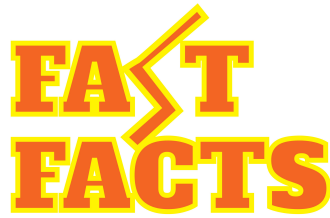
Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155 and must be submitted to the SBA no later than July 1, 2024.

Operation Green Light - Did you see Green in November?

From November 6 -12, 2023, Carroll County illuminated the main County Office Building at 225 N. Center Street in Westminster green in recognition of Veterans Day. The lighting is part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a national collaborative initiative of the National Association of Counties (NACo) to support military Veterans, as well as raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by many Veterans and the resources that are available at the county, state, and federal level to assist Veterans and their families. Join us next year and turn your porch light green! More details next fall.



TRIPLE AAA AND BOND SALE



Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner", was born at his family plantation of Terra Rubra, in what is now northwestern Carroll County.

S&P Global
Ratings

AAA

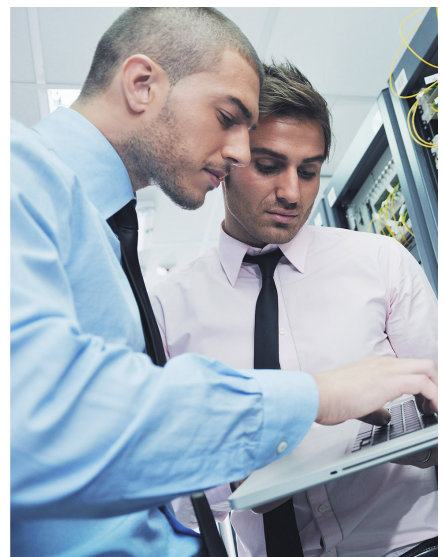
Fitch Ratings



On November 8th, Carroll County announced the recent reaffirmation of three triple A ratings from the three major financial rating agencies, Fitch Ratings, S&P Global Ratings, and Moody's. Carroll County is pleased to remain one of the elite counties in the country to receive a triple AAA bond rating – the highest possible ratings a county can receive. The three major financial rating agencies all praised the county's financial standing.

This rating is significant as it allows the county to finance capital projects at the lowest possible interest rate. The county held a \$30 million sale of new issue bonds on November 16, 2023, with proceeds dedicated to various infrastructure and other capital investments for general government, public schools, and conservation & water resources.

Links to the credit agency reports are available on the county [Comptroller's webpage](#).



Governor and Lieutenant Governor Visit Carroll County

On Friday, January 5, 2024, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, and the administration's cabinet visited Carroll County, meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and other local leaders, and touring several locations throughout Westminster. The Commissioners were excited to welcome the Moore-Miller Administration to the county and appreciated the opportunity to meet with Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller to learn more about their priorities and share Carroll County's primary issues. The discussion included topics such as Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) budget and Highway User Revenues, the new Veterans home proposed for Sykesville, and the county's request for project funding assistance. The commissioners also met with various cabinet members to discuss follow-up steps.





EAST FACTS

On October 1, 1961, Carroll County General Hospital opened its doors. Originally planned by local citizens in 1957, the hospital had only 50 beds with 125 employees.

Carroll County Government has boxes of marked and unmarked slides, photos, and negatives. This particular image is of downtown Westminster, MD in July of 1984. It is always interesting to see what has changed and sometimes what has not. Locust Books and the Treat Shop are no longer located in downtown Westminster.

Anyone have an idea what festival was being held on Main Street?

Email us at communications@carrollcountymd.gov if you have any history of this photo.

Reference "From The Archives".





SPOTLIGHT

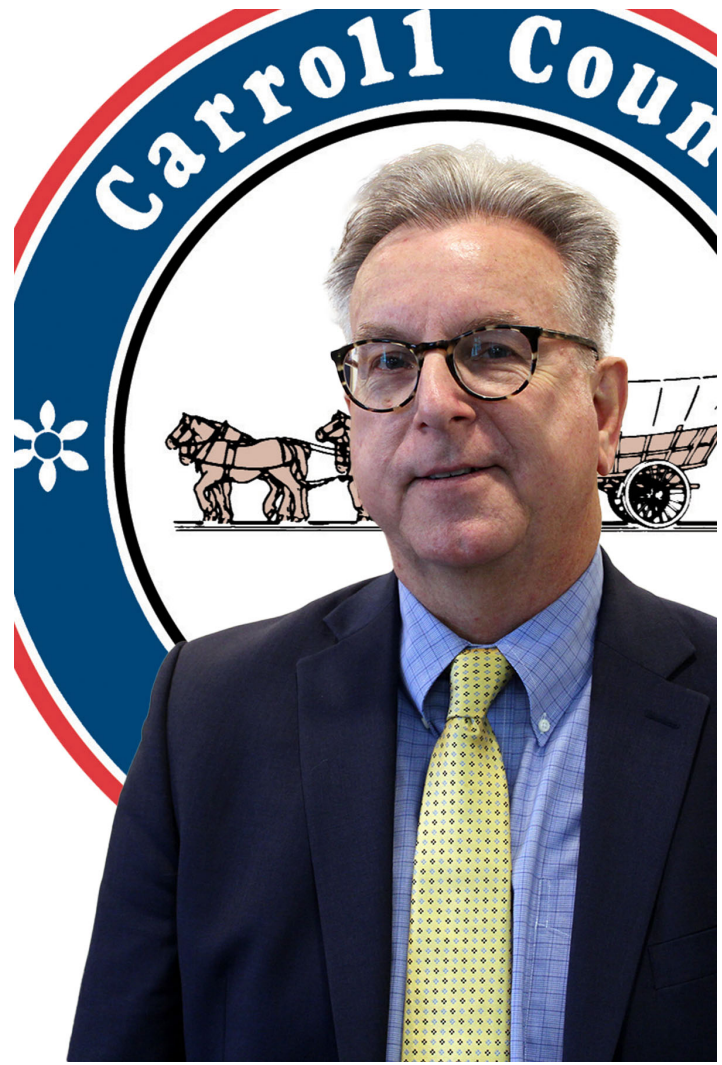


Meet Legislative Liaison Mike Fowler – the County’s Link to Annapolis

When the Maryland General Assembly began the 2024 session on January 10, 2024, Carroll County has more than elected senators and delegates representing county interests and citizens.

The county’s Legislative Liaison Mike Fowler fills a critical role as he identifies State of Maryland legislation that may significantly impact the budget and/or operations of Carroll County Government, Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS), and other local organizations. With a busy, fast-paced legislative session, Mike is the conduit of information between the Delegation and the County Commissioners, and advocates for Carroll County.

The commissioners recognize the importance of having an active role in the state legislative process and Mr. Fowler is the eyes and ears of the board. He serves as the principal contact with state and federal officials and is Carroll County’s chief spokesperson and advocate for relevant bills and initiatives. Operating primarily from Annapolis, Mike works closely with the Carroll County Delegation of Senators and Delegates coordinating information between the state and county. During Maryland’s 90-day session, Mr. Fowler is in regular contact with the Board of Commissioners and staff and frequently gives weekly updates during the commissioners’ public open session meetings. *-continued-*





SPOTLIGHT

A day in the life of Mr. Fowler is very diversified and ever changing, but regular activities include reviewing introduced legislation, monitoring progress of current proposed bills, attending and/or watching floor sessions, committee meetings and hearings, and visiting delegation offices to check in, discuss concerns, and determine strategy.

In the course of advocating for county interests in Annapolis, Mike's primary responsibilities include:

- Developing and maintaining internal and external relationships/partnerships with:
 - o county departmental staff as subject matter experts on county issues
 - o CCPS, especially on Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan)
 - o Sheriff's Office on wide range of law enforcement issues
 - o Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) – critical player as most legislation impacts counties in similar ways
- Leveraging the above relationships to seek satisfactory outcomes for the county
- Keeping the commissioners informed and determining their position on legislative and policy proposals
- Preparing and delivering testimony and acting as representative of the Board in Annapolis

Mr. Fowler notes, "I consider myself a generalist. I don't need to know all the answers, I just need to know where to get them. Carroll County staff are the subject matter experts in their areas and are always willing to help; together we make a strong team that monitors the business of the General Assembly and works with our state elected officials to advocate for Carroll County."



LOCATION HIGHLIGHT!

Carroll County Barn Quilt Trail

Experience a part of Carroll County's rich history and travel the Barn Quilt Trail. The program pays homage to Carroll's agrarian history by installing 8-foot square quilt blocks on scenic barns throughout the county. There are 47 barn quilts currently dotting the Carroll County countryside. The barn quilt tradition actually dates back many years when farmers used to paint Pennsylvania Dutch hex signs and other folk art designs on their barns. The first 12 quilt blocks in this project were chosen and painted by volunteers associated with the Carroll County Arts Council. The Carroll County Office of Tourism and the county's agriculture development specialist worked with local farmers to place the quilts. The next 27 quilt blocks were chosen by the farm families themselves and printed by a local printing company. In many cases, these families created their own design or adapted an existing pattern so that each block is significant to their specific farming operation. The Carroll County Barn Quilt Trail is a collaborative project undertaken by the Carroll County Arts Council, the Carroll County Office of Tourism, the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Carroll County Public Library.

Visit the trailguide [here](#).



Important Links



- [County Directory](#)
- [Adopted Budget](#)
- [Board of Elections](#)
- [Carroll County Sheriff's Office](#)
- [Carroll Transit System](#)
- [Carroll County Circuit Court](#)
- [Carroll County Health Department](#)
- [County Code](#)
- [Directory of Community Services](#)
- [Fire/Emergency/Medical Services](#)
- [Humane Society of Carroll County](#)
- [Department of Planning & Land Management](#)
- [Maps on the Web](#)
- [Maryland Manual On-line](#)
- [Parks](#)
- [Permits & Inspections](#)
- [Carroll County Calendar of Events](#)
- [Policies & Forms](#)
- [Protecting Carroll County Waters](#)
- [Public Hearings](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Public Schools](#)
- [Department of Public Works](#)
- [Recycling](#)
- [Senior Centers](#)
- [Solid Waste Operations](#)
- [State's Attorney](#)
- [Veterans Services](#)





Email Directly

All Commissioners:

commissioners@carrollcountymd.gov

D1 Commissioner Vigliotti:

jvigliotti@carrollcountymd.gov

D2 Commissioner Kiler:

kkiler@carrollcountymd.gov

D3 Commissioner Gordon:

tgordon@carrollcountymd.gov

D4 Commissioner Guerin:

mguerin@carrollcountymd.gov

D5 Commissioner Rothstein:

erothstein@carrollcountymd.gov

HOW TO REACH THE COMMISSIONERS – CONTACT INFO

Mail/Call:

Carroll County
Commissioners

225 N. Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157
410-386-2043



Carroll Connect

Good communication is essential to Carroll County Government in Maryland. We use communication to promote county services, enhance public awareness, and engage the citizens of Carroll County. Carroll Connect, powered by GovDelivery is the free digital service improving the lines of communication between the government and the citizens. Subscribe with your email, choose a topic or topics, and get informed.

Carroll Connect is confidential and customizable. With Carroll Connect you can receive information regarding the commissioner in your district, sign up for recreation and parks programs, or stay informed with press release notifications. A subscriber can add topics of interest at any time. Topics will be added as new communication initiatives arise.

