



NEWS FROM THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL

WE NEED INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS!

Online Survey Available Now

The City of Westminster is asking residents within the City limits to participate in a comprehensive quality of life survey. The survey is designed to provide a baseline of how the City government is serving its residents, to gauge perceptions of Westminster as a community, and to make comparisons with other local governments. To access the survey, please visit our website at www.WestminsterMD.gov.

New Councilmembers Sworn In

On May 20, 2019, we said farewell to Councilmember Robert Wack and Councilmember Mona Becker, both of whom did not seek re-election. That same evening, Kevin Dayhoff, Ann Gilbert, and Greg Pecoraro – who were elected by Westminster voters on May 14 to serve on the Common Council – took the oath of office.

The newly constituted Mayor and Common Council held an organizational meeting on May 20, electing Councilmember Pecoraro as the new Common Council President. Councilmember Tony Chiavacci was selected by his colleagues as Council President Pro Tempore.

FY 2020 Budget Adopted

On May 13, 2019, the Mayor and Common Council adopted the budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The City's new fiscal year began July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020.

The FY 2020 budget accounts for the City's financial activities through five primary funds, or fiscal entities – the General Fund, the Water Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Fiber Fund, and the Capital Projects Fund. The General Fund accounts for the day-to-day operational activities of the City, such as planning, police protection, snow removal, and general administration. Other major funds include the City's enterprise funds: Water, Sewer, and Fiber. These enterprise funds operate and account for their transactions in a manner similar to private businesses. By policy, they are to be self-supporting, with their fees and charges covering operating costs, capital projects, and debt service costs.

In FY 2020, combined revenues for all funds are projected to total approximately \$63.2 million. Combined expenditures for all funds equal about \$68.13 million. The variance is comprised of allocations from the reserves of the General Fund and the Capital Projects Fund.

For the seventh year in a row, the City's real property tax rate will remain at \$0.56 per \$100 of assessed valuation; the City will receive more revenue due to higher property values in FY 2020. Water and sewer rates will be adjusted based on the multi-year rate plan adopted last year.

FY 2020 projects include street improvements, acquisition of vehicles, storm drain repairs, sidewalk retrofit work to ADA standards, and repairs and enhancements to City-owned facilities, including the 45 West Main Renovation Project and parking garage work. In FY 2020, the City plans to undertake a pilot water re-use project, one of the priorities included in the City's Strategic Plan. Funding is also included for the continued construction of the ENR/Biosolids Project at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant and for the ongoing efforts to address inflow and infiltration into the sewer system; minimizing inflow and infiltration will restore sewer treatment capacity, which is critical to Westminster's continued economic growth.

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Follow us on Facebook for the following information:

Westminster, Maryland: Holiday schedule changes, inclement weather and emergency information

City of Westminster Recreation & Parks Department: Events, parade information, fitness classes, park openings

Downtown Westminster, Maryland: News about Downtown Westminster, from business openings and specials to events and business news

Westminster Fiber Network: Keep up to date with the WFN



NEWS FROM THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL (continued)

Single Use Plastic Bag Ban

Ordinance No. 911, adopted on May 13, 2019, will add a new chapter to the City Code to address the proliferation of single-use plastic bags in the environment. Effective July 1, 2020, the legislation will prohibit any business establishment within the City limits from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to its customers, except in certain circumstances.

Single-use plastic bags used for laundry dry cleaning, door-hangers, and newspapers are exempt under the legislation. Other exemptions include bags provided by pharmacists or veterinarians to contain prescription drugs or other medical necessities, as required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; bags used by a business establishment to contain bulk items, frozen foods, plant material, flowers or potted plants, or unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods; bags used by restaurants for take-out and delivery of foods; and the distribution of bags by small businesses with fewer than 25 employees at all of their establishments, unless the business is a franchise.

Packages of multiple bags used for the disposal of garbage, pet waste, or yard waste are allowable under the proposed ordinance. Customers can continue to bring their own bags of any type to a business establishment for their personal use.

Other Legislative Matters

Effective January 1, 2026, boarding and rooming houses will no longer be permitted in the City of Westminster.

Also, the Mayor and Common Council passed legislation authorizing up to \$16.5 million in State bonds to refinance the City's existing fiber loans.

Downtown Art Installation

You may have noticed *Sprouts*, a new public art installation at the corner of Main Street and Bond Street. Designed by local artist Thomas Sterner, the piece was funded by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, with matching funds provided equally by the Carroll County Arts Council and the City of Westminster. *Sprouts* was officially unveiled on Saturday, May 18.

City Budget Document Recognized

The City recently received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its FY 2019 budget document. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is valid for one year, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

To receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the governmental entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. The organization's budget document must be rated "proficient" in all four of these categories, as well as in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

Planning the Future: Planning and Zoning Commission

In the first quarter of 2019, the Commission approved a site plan for a new 80,000-square-foot industrial building in the Westminster Technology Park. The project is expected to attract several employers to the area and bring new jobs into the City. The Commission also reviewed a rezoning that will allow a brand new 35-unit apartment building to be built in the City. Providing new and reasonably-priced housing for the residents of Westminster, along with new jobs, are major goals of the City. The Commission also reviewed new legislation related to boarding and rooming houses in the city and approved signage for a local business on MD-140.

The Westminster Planning and Zoning Commission reviews new projects and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council. The Commission meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month at 7PM in City Hall, located at 1838 Emerald Hill Lane. The meetings are always open to the public, so come see what's in the future for your community!

Upcoming Events for July 2019

Park & Recreation Month

We know that parks and recreation isn't always all fun and games, but this July, we want to celebrate everything that makes our field fun, joyful, and full of excitement! This year's theme for Park and Recreation Month is Game On! So, start lacing up your fun shoes and get ready to get in the game this July. Be sure to check our website for daily activities!

Carroll County Arts Center, 91 W Main Street, CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or 410-848-7272

- * 6/20 – 8/9: Exhibit “The Art of the Musical Instrument”
- * 6/20 – 8/9: Exhibit “Carroll County Camera Club”
- * Tuesdays in July: Free Summer Movie series, each begins at 7pm
- * Friday, 7/26: FLICC presents: The World’s Fastest Indian, 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Wednesday, 7/31: Carroll’s Got Talent, Carroll County 4H Fair, 6pm

Historical Society of Carroll County, HSCCMD.org or 410-848-6494

- * Tuesday, 7/16: Box Lunch Talk—Fairs through the Years, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 7/20: Past Times for Children—Gardening in the 1800s, Cockey’s Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Sunday, 7/21: Sundae Scoop—Celebrating National Ice Cream Day, East Main Street Campus, 1-5pm

Upcoming Events for August 2019

Carroll County Arts Center, 91 W Main Street, CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or 410-848-7272

- * 6/20 – 8/9: Exhibit “The Art of the Musical Instrument”
- * 6/20 – 8/9: Exhibit “Carroll County Camera Club”
- * Saturday, 8/3: Peter Yarrow in Concert, 7:30pm
- * Tuesday, 8/6: Free Summer Movie series: How to Train Your Dragon 3, 7pm
- * Friday, 8/9: FLICC presents: The Third Man, 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Friday, 8/16: Duets: A Comedy in Four Acts by Peter Quilter, 7pm
- * Saturday, 8/17: Duets: A Comedy in Four Acts by Peter Quilter, 3pm & 7pm
- * Saturday & Sunday, 8/24-25: yART Sale, 8am—4pm
- * Saturday, 8/24: Troy Engle and Southern Skies, 8pm

Historical Society of Carroll County, HSCCMD.org or 410-848-6494

- * Saturday, 8/17: Past Times for Children—Canning, Cockey’s Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Tuesday, 8/20: Box Lunch Talk—Brethren Service Center, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon

Upcoming Events for September 2019

FallFest

FallFest is returning September 26—29! The FallFest parade on Thursday will kick off with the Fun Run at 6:55pm, starting at Monroe Street. The parade will follow along Pennsylvania Avenue to West Main Street, and conclude on Longwell Avenue to start the festivities in City Park and the North Longwell Parking Lot.

Festival hours are 6-10pm on Thursday, 6-10pm on Friday, 10am-10pm on Saturday, and 12-6pm on Sunday. Look for more information coming soon on our website!

Carroll County Arts Center, 91 W Main Street, CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or 410-848-7272

- * Saturday, 9/14: The Fabulous Hubcaps, 7:30pm
- * Wednesday, 9/18: Jazz Series: A Tribute to Chet Baker, 7pm
- * Saturday, 9/28: National Players “As You Like It,” 7:30pm

Historical Society of Carroll County, HSCCMD.org or 410-848-6494

- * Saturday, 9/17: Box Lunch Talk—Great Futures Start Here, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Tuesday, 9/20: Past Times for Children—Food and Where They Get It, Cockey’s Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am

DIRECT-DIAL NUMBER FOR CURBSIDE ITEM PICKUP REQUESTS: 410-848-9077

The City of Westminster has a *direct-dial phone number* for all **curbside item pickup** requests. You can also leave a message and request a call back to confirm when your item(s) will be collected. All requests for curbside pickups must be received at least one working day prior to the scheduled collection date.

The schedule for pick-ups will be on the following days of the week (biweekly):

- **Monday**—Tree limbs and brush (no longer than 4 feet, no larger than 4 inches in diameter)
- **Tuesday**—Metal, large appliances, tires, and large batteries (excluding dishwashers, TVs, microwaves)
- **Wednesday (weekly)**—Yard waste in brown paper bags or bushel-sized containers weighing less than 50lb; **NO** plastic bags, dirt or sod, mulch, concrete, rock/stone, or brick)
- **Thursday**—Bulk pick up east of Rt 31
- **Friday**—Bulk pick up west of Rt 31

NOTE: If the scheduled pickup day falls on a City holiday, items will be scheduled for the next available collection date. Items must be placed at the curb **no later than 7am** on the scheduled pickup date.

2019 Scheduled Collection Weeks

July: 7/1 – 7/5; 7/15 – 7/19; and 7/29 – 8/2. *NO pickups on 7/4*

August: 8/12 – 8/16 and 8/26 – 8/30

September: 9/9 – 9/13 and 9/23 – 9/27

October: 10/7 – 10/11 and 10/21 – 20/25

November: 11/4 – 11/8 and 11/18 – 11/22

December: 12/2 – 12/6; 12/16 – 12/20; and 12/30 – 1/3. *NO pickups on 1/1/20*

**Need a bin
for your
recyclables?
Call your
hauler today!**

CARROLL COUNTY RECYCLES

Mix the following recyclables loose in your bin:

Cardboard (place inside or next to cart)

Aluminum, tin and steel cans, containers and foil

Cereal boxes and other paperboard boxes

Glass Jars & Bottles

Aseptic and gable top containers

Plastic Bottles #1 – #7

Paperback Books, Telephone Books

Paper bags

Newspaper, inserts, and office paper, and junk mail

Magazines & Catalogs

Plastic tubs, wide-mouth containers (yogurt, peanut butter, margarine tubs)
NO #6

PLEASE:

NO Plastic Bags

NO Styrofoam

NO Electronics

NO Ceramics or Dishes

NO Food Waste

NO Motor Oil Containers

NO Batteries

NO #6 Plastic

NO Household Hazardous Waste

NO Light Bulbs, Window Glass or Mirrors

NO

Trash or Yard Waste

For more information about
Single Stream Recycling visit
www.recyclecarroll.org or call the
Bureau of Solid Waste at **410-386-2510**.