



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Eleven Issue 4a



2019 Community Survey Results

Earlier this year, the City contracted with The National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to conduct a survey of 1,600 Westminster residents. NRC has served local governments and other public sector entities for more than 20 years.

About 2% of the 1,600 surveys mailed were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining households, 25% completed the survey. The City thanks everyone who took the time to complete the 2019 Community Survey. Your feedback will help us to serve the community better.

The City's survey results were benchmarked against 600 other communities across the country whose residents evaluated the same topics. With few exceptions, its survey results were similar to the national benchmark.

Below are some highlights of the 2019 Community Survey results:

- 66% of City residents rated the quality of life in Westminster as excellent or good;
- 75% rated the City as an excellent or good place to live;
- 90% of City residents reported feeling very or somewhat safe in their neighborhood;
- 80% feel very safe or somewhat safe in downtown Westminster;
- 75% of Westminster residents rated the overall quality of City services as excellent or good;
- 71% gave high marks to the overall quality of customer service provided by City employees;
- 82% rated snow removal services as excellent or good, exceeding the national benchmark;
- Approximately 7 in 10 residents gave high marks to their neighborhood, the overall appearance of Westminster, and Westminster as a place to raise children; and,
- About 7 in 10 of survey respondents were likely to recommend living in Westminster and planned to remain in the City.

The 2019 Community Survey also asked for resident opinions about possible enhancements at the former Wakefield Valley Golf Course. These enhancements included reconfiguration/improvement of the trail system, renovation of the existing buildings as community space, and the addition of picnic shelters/pavilions. Residents indicated high levels of support for making improvements to the City-owned portion of the Wakefield property. When asked if they would be willing to incur a tax increase to pay for the enhancements, the level of support declined significantly.

Residents were also asked to provide feedback on the type of businesses in downtown Westminster. About 6 in 10 residents indicated that they would like to see more family-oriented businesses. About half would like to see more cultural- and art-related options (art galleries, theaters, etc.). Approximately 6 in 10 residents felt like the amount of personal services and professional services should remain about the same.

All survey reports are available on the City's website (www.westminstermd.gov) as part of the agenda packet for the September 23, 2019 meeting of the Mayor and Common Council.

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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



45 West Main Renovation Project Moving Forward

The City purchased the property located at 45 West Main Street in 2018. Following renovation of the building, the City will relocate its administrative offices from its current leased location. A Request for Bids for the 45 West Main Street Renovation Project was issued in late August; bids will be opened on October 9, 2019. City staff is anticipated to move to the new location in early 2021.

City to Acquire Key Downtown Parcel

The City has reached an agreement with James L. and A. Jayne Stocksdales, the owners of the property located at 17-25 West Main Street, to purchase the property at a cost of \$750,000. Closing on the property is anticipated to take place in December 2019. Acquiring the property will give the City control of the use of this key parcel in downtown Westminster. One of the goals of the City's adopted Strategic Plan is to "promote opportunities for the City to be an active partner in public-private joint ventures that address the underutilization of key parcels in the downtown area."

City Receives Financial Reporting Award

The City recently received the Government Finance Officer's Association's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR Award). A PAFR extracts information from the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to produce a report specifically designed for those without a background in public finance. The City's FY 2018 report was evaluated by judges for reader appeal, understandability, distribution methods, creativity, and other elements. The FY 2018 PAFR is available in the Finance Department section of the City's website.

Downtown Westminster Farmers' Market Open with Fall Produce!

There's always something new to find at the County's longest-running, open air, producer-only farmer's market. Located off Route 27 in the Conaway Parking Lot, the Market is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. – Noon until November 16.

Planning the Future: Planning and Zoning Commission

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! Agendas for all City boards and commissions are posted on the City website.

In the third quarter of 2019, the Commission reviewed construction plans for sections three through six of Stonegate. The Commission approved a site plan for an expansion to the Westminster Branch Library; the project includes the addition of an ADA-accessible entrance to the building, an elevator tower, and the conversion of the existing unfinished basement area into various community uses (a commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, a new maker space, and restrooms). And, finally, the Commission approved a site plan for the Shoppes at Meadow Creek to convert the existing bank drive-thru into new, enclosed gym space.

#SHOPSMALL—Small Business Saturday

Be sure to support all the wonderful shops and restaurants in downtown Westminster on Saturday, November 30. The City's celebration of Small Business Saturday® is part of a nationwide effort to celebrate the unique businesses that make our communities special.

Miracle on Main Street Holiday Electric Parade

Saturday, November 30 will be a fun-filled day and evening for everyone. Stay late after you shop and experience the annual Miracle on Main Street Holiday Electric Parade! Lighted floats will travel down Pennsylvania Avenue along Main Street to Longwell Avenue. The Parade will begin with the Jingle Bell Run at 4:55pm, and will conclude with the Tree Lighting on Locust Lane. Bring the kids to the Westminster Library afterwards to check out Santa's Treat.

New Policing Strategies in Downtown Westminster

You may have seen a change in how the Westminster Police Department is patrolling Downtown Westminster. Patrols now include foot, bicycle, and T3 units.

The Police Department recently implemented use of the Nextdoor app and website to connect neighbors and provide immediate updates and information to specific areas of the City. Anyone can view posts made to the Westminster Nextdoor group, but only Westminster residents may add posts. The Nextdoor app is available for both Android and Apple smartphones, so sign up now to stay connected! The website is accessible at <https://nextdoor.com/agency/westminster-police-department-3/?i=hxpdbxpnqhdrfhkrdinxn>.

Upcoming Events for October 2019

Oyster Stroll

Visit the annual Oyster Stroll in downtown on October 12 from Noon-4pm. Shop, slurp, and stroll through downtown! This event benefits the Coastal Conservation Association.

Downtown Halloween Event

Join us in downtown Westminster for a Spooky Saturday on October 26! Events include the Monster Dash beginning at 2:55pm; trick-or-treat, crafts, games, and refreshments in Locust Lane from 3-6pm; and, a Haunted Story Time at the Westminster Library from 3-6pm. For more details, call 410-751-5501 or e-mail WestminsterRec@westgov.com.

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

- * 9/5—11/2: Annual Member Exhibit
- * Saturday, 10/12: "Beautiful-An Evening of Chamber Music, 7pm
- * Wednesday, 10/16: Jazz Series: Trio of Trombones, 7pm
- * Friday, 10/18: FLICC presents: Beautiful Boy, 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 10/19: Arte Flamenco Dancers, 8pm
- * Friday, 10/25: Rocky Horror Picture Show, 10pm

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

- * Tuesday, 10/15: Box Lunch Talk—Fran's Story—About the Carroll County Hospital, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 10/19: Past Times for Children—General Store, Cockey's Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am

Upcoming Events for November 2019

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

- * Friday, 11/8—Sunday, 11/10: Live Kids Theatre "Once On This Island Jr," times vary, call for details
- * Thursday, 11/14: Lecture by Dr. Banta from The BMA "A Question of Relevance: Art Museums Now" 7pm
- * Friday, 11/15: FLICC presents: The Founder, 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Wednesday, 11/20: Jazz Series: Coming Home, 7pm
- * 11/15—12/21: Gallery of Gifts
- * 11/29-12/8: Festival of Wreaths

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

- * Saturday, 11/16: Past Times for Children—Trains, Cockey's Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Tuesday, 11/19: Box Lunch Talk—The McDaniel College ROTC Program, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon

Upcoming Events for December 2019

Visits with Santa Claus

Santa Claus will take up residence in his House on the lawn of the Carroll County Public Library—Westminster Branch, each Saturday in December leading up to Christmas. Children of all ages are invited to visit and talk with him about their holiday wishes from Noon—4pm.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

Join us in downtown Westminster for FREE horse-drawn carriage rides every Saturday in December leading up to Christmas! Across the street from Santa's House at the Library, carriage rides will run from Locust Lane from Noon—4pm.

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

- * 11/15—12/21: Gallery of Gifts
- * 11/29-12/8: Festival of Wreaths
- * Sunday, 12/1: Sunday Night Big Band Holiday Concert, 3 pm
- * Friday, 12/13: "A Christmas Carol" Live Theatre, 8pm
- * Saturday, 12/14: "A Christmas Carol" Live Theatre, 3pm & 8pm
- * Friday, 12/20: A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas, 8pm
- * Saturday, 12/21: A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas, 3pm & 8pm

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

- * Tuesday, 12/17: Box Lunch Talk—We All Scream for Ice Cream, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 12/21: Past Times for Children—Holidays in the 1800s, 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

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

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**.