



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

February 2020



45 West Main Renovation Project Underway

Renovation of the City-owned property located at 45 West Main Street (the former site of BB&T Bank) got underway in early January 2020. The City will relocate its administrative offices, currently housed in leased space at 56 West Main Street, following completion of the renovation project in approximately a year. The City's administrative staff is expected to move to the new location in the first quarter of 2021.

City Acquires Key Downtown Parcel

On December 3, 2019, the City closed on the property located at 17-25 West Main Street, at a cost of \$750,000. The property was previously the site of the Stocksdale Service Center. Acquiring the property gives 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."

On January 13, 2020, the Mayor and Common Council awarded a contract to Partners for Economic Solutions (PES) to assist the City with the redevelopment of the 17-25 West Main property. Work will be performed in two phases. During Phase 1, the PES team will meet with the City to define its goals for the property's redevelopment, prepare a preliminary pro forma analysis of the site's potential development, compile site information for inclusion in the developer solicitation, prepare and distribute a developer solicitation brochure, and review developer expressions of interest.

Public Hearing Scheduled for Proposed Vaping Ordinance

The Mayor and Common Council are considering enactment of an ordinance that would prohibit vaping in places of public accommodation. Proposed Ordinance No 920 would ban vaping where smoking of tobacco products is already prohibited by State law. Vaping in vape shops, and in other shops where the use is lawful and vaping is the primary intended purpose of the use, would not be impacted. The Mayor and Common Council are seeking community input on Proposed Ordinance No. 920. A public hearing will be held at 7:00pm on Monday, February 24 at Westminster City Hall, 1838 Emerald Hill Lane.

Briefing Held on Water and Sewer Capacity

On December 11, 2019, the Mayor and Common Council held a briefing on Westminster's water and sewer capacity status and related City initiatives that are underway. The December 11 presentation was the latest in a series of meetings the Mayor and Common Council have hosted over the last few years to share information with the community on Westminster's ongoing efforts to ensure its water and sewer systems meet the community's needs – today and for the future. Video of the meeting runs less than 30 minutes and is available on the YouTube channel for the Community Media Center of Carroll County.

Everyone Counts: City Prepares for the 2020 Census

The federal government will soon conduct the 2020 Census, the City of Westminster is asking community members to do their part to meet the goal of counting everyone once – and only once – in the right place. Your participation in the 2020 Census is important to Westminster and Carroll County. Compiled every 10 years, census data is used by the government to:

- Define representative boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts and voting precincts, and for enforcing voting rights and civil rights legislation.
- Determine how billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed. It is estimated that each person not counted by the census costs the state about \$18,250 over a 10-year period, for a total of \$26.6 billion statewide. This impacts critical funding for programs, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), emergency preparedness, school construction, and transportation projects.

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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



Everyone Counts: City Prepares for the 2020 Census (...continued)

How can you help? By participating in the 2020 Census! Completing the Census questionnaire is important, safe, and easy. You may respond online, by phone, or by mail. Your personal information is legally protected and confidential. See the flyer attached to this newsletter for more information on the upcoming Census.



City Hires New Department Director

On November 25, 2019, the Common Council unanimously approved Mayor Dominick's nomination of Mark Depo to be Westminster's next Director of Community Planning and Development. Mr. Depo joined the City staff on December 31, 2019. He brought 24 years of professional planning experience to the City, including stints in various Maryland local governments. Most recently, he was employed by Loudoun County, Virginia.

Planning the Future: Planning and Zoning Commission

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the Westminster Planning and Zoning Commission held informal discussions on three proposed projects, including:

- CFT Plaza, a proposed shopping center that will include a Panda Express restaurant located at the site of the former Ruby Tuesday Restaurant;
- Clark Farm Properties, a 35-unit multifamily project located adjacent to the existing WTRR Radio towers off of Mulligan Lane (no formal site plan has been submitted for review); and,
- Conifer Westminster Way, a 35-unit multifamily project located at the former intersection of West Main Street and Taneytown Pike.

The Commission also conducted three public hearings. Two hearings concerned annexations to expand the corporate limits of the City of Westminster, while the third concerned an amendment to the City's Zoning Code.

All meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission are open to the public. Please see the City website for information on upcoming meetings. Agendas are usually posted the Friday before the regularly scheduled meeting date.

Winter Weather Reminders

A reminder to all Westminster property owners to clear ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours. Failure to do so could not only result in liability to the property owner, but also a fine from Code Enforcement.

Please be a good neighbor this winter and help out your fellow citizens who may have difficulty clearing ice and snow from sidewalks due to age, disability, or other reasons. Also, if you see a fire hydrant or storm drain that is covered in snow, please help emergency responders and Public Works employees by clearing these areas for quick and easy access in the event of an emergency, and to help avoid flooding from melting snow.



The City of Westminster is committed to providing safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic under all conditions. The following information is provided to answer questions about our snow removal operations.

- Salt brine is applied before winter weather is expected, but not if rain will fall first.
- Once snow begins to fall, two salt/plow trucks are on the streets within one hour of notification, and ten salt/plow trucks are on the streets within two hours of notification.
- The Street Department begins plowing when the accumulation on the street reaches 1 to 1.25 inches. It takes ten salt/plow trucks and ten additional trucks approximately five to six hours to remove every three inches of snow.
- Once 8-10 inches of snow has fallen, some alleys may not be cleared until the event is over. After 15 inches of snow, the City will concentrate on keeping two-lane traffic open on all main roads and one-lane traffic open in all developments.
- Snow plows angle to the driver's right. When going by your home, they may push the snow in front of the driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until the crews have done their final cleanup on the street.

Upcoming Events for February 2020

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

- * 12/18/19-2/29/20: Gallery Exhibit “Cultivate and Fabricate”
- * 12/18/19-2/29/20: Gallery Exhibit “Sykesville Painting Club”
- * 1/14-2/29/20: Gallery Exhibit “Consilience”
- * Saturday, 2/1: Live music: Aztec Sun, 8pm
- * Friday, 2/7: Foreign Film Festival: Woman at War (2018, NR, Iceland), 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 2/8: Common Ground on the Hill presents Genticorum, 7:30pm
- * Sunday, 2/9: Oscar Nominated Shorts, 1pm
- * Friday, 2/14: Foreign Film Festival: The Sapphires (2012, PG-13, Australia), 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Monday, 2/17: Silly Goose and Val children’s show, 11am
- * Wednesday, 2/19: Jazz Series—Compositions of Miles and Monte Leister, 7pm
- * Friday, 2/21: Foreign Film Festival: The Insult (2017, R, Lebanon), 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Friday, 2/28: Foreign Film Festival: Capernaum (2018, R, Lebanon), 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 2/29: Live performance: Teelin Irish Dance Co., 3pm & 7pm

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

- * Tuesday, 2/18: Box Lunch Talk—The Community Media Center’s Carroll County History Project, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 2/22: Washington Never Slept There: A Tour of Washington State Wines* with Bernie Vogel, Emerald Hill, *call to reserve tickets

Upcoming Events for March 2020

Celtic Canter 5K & Downtown Irish Celebration

The Celtic Canter 5K & Downtown Irish Celebration will take place in historic downtown Westminster, MD on Saturday, March 14. Activities include a post-race party, awards ceremony, and an Irish celebration complete with a pub crawl, live music, vendors, and activities for children. For more information, visit CelticCanter.org.

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

- * 3/5-3/17: Gallery Exhibit “Youth Art Month”
- * Friday, 3/13: Live music: Gaelic Mishap, 8pm
- * Wednesday, 3/18: Live music: Leister Quartet with Jay Fenner, 7pm
- * Friday, 3/27: FLICC film: The Sting (1973, PG-13), 1pm & 7:30pm

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

- * Tuesday, 3/17: Box Lunch Talk—Manchester Historical Society, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 3/21: Past Times for Children—Toys of the Past, Cockey’s Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am

Upcoming Events for April 2020

Downtown Restaurant Week

Save the date! Restaurant Week returns to Downtown Westminster April 24—May 3. Don’t miss checking out specials at all of our restaurants!

Downtown Westminster Wine Stroll

The annual Wine Stroll in Downtown Westminster will take place on Saturday, April 25. Tickets will be on sale soon, so check our website for more information!

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

- * 4/3-4/13: Gallery Exhibit “PEEPshow”
- * Wednesday, 4/15: Jazz Series—The Piano Speaks, 7pm
- * Friday, 4/17: FLICC film: The Wife, 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Friday, 4/24: Lady Brion, spoken word artist, 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 4/25: Live performance: Kalinka Dance Ensemble, 7:30pm

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

- * Tuesday, 4/21: Box Lunch Talk—The Art of Tinsmithing, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 4/25: Legacy Gala: Breaking Barriers, Martin’s Westminster, 6pm, *call to reserve tickets

**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, following the biweekly schedule of dates listed below:

- **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 trash pick up east of Rt 31
- **Friday**—Bulk trash 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.

2020 Scheduled Collection Weeks

February: 2/10 – 2/14 and 2/24 – 2/28

March: 3/9 – 3/13 and 3/23 – 3/27

April: 4/6 – 4/9, *NO pickups on 4/10*; and 4/20 – 4/24

May: 5/4 – 5/8 and 5/18 – 5/22

June: 6/1 – 6/5; 6/15 – 6/19; and 6/29 – 7/3

July: 6/29 – 7/3; 7/13 – 7/17; and 7/27 – 7/31

August: 8/10 – 8/14 and 8/24 – 8/28

September: 9/8 – 9/11, *NO pickups 9/7; 9/21 – 9/25*

October: 10/5 – 10/9; 10/19 – 10/23

November: 11/2 – 11/6; 11/16 – 11/20; and 11/30 – 12/4

December: 11/30 – 12/4; 12/14 – 12/18; and 12/28 – 12/31, *NO pickups on 1/1/21*

Christmas Tree Collection

The City will collect Christmas trees curbside every other Monday following the Curbside Collection Schedule above (Tree limbs/brush). Please remember that if City offices are closed for a holiday, that day's pick up schedule is cancelled. The complete Schedule is available on the City website at WestminsterMD.gov or by calling the Information Desk at 410-848-9000. **All requests for curbside collections must be scheduled.**

Trees can also be dropped off through March 31 at the Westminster Skate Park. The Westminster Skate Park is located at the corner of Tuc Road and Locust Street, behind City Hall. Trees may be piled next to the Dumpster at the Park.



visit www.nacwa.org/toilets

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Westminster, Taneytown, Hampstead, Mt. Airy, Manchester, Sykesville, New Windsor, Union Bridge

2020

CensusMaryland

Important Easy and Safe

The United States is **required** to perform a national count of all people living in each state every ten years per the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 2.

The 2020 census impacts Maryland, Carroll County, and all eight Carroll County Municipalities in several important ways.

The census:

- Assists local decision-making for economic development, school construction and transportation projects, as well as public health, public safety and emergency planning.
- Is the basis for funding critical programs and services; and
- Determines representation in Congress and impacts local legislative districts;

EVERY PERSON IN CARROLL COUNTY COUNTS!

Why the Census is Important

Census data is used to determine the level of federal funding for programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children (SNAP/WIC), Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and highway and transportation projects.

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than **\$675 Billion** in funding based on census data.
- Every Marylander not counted costs the state approximately **\$18,250** over 10 years – this equates to the state losing **\$26.6 Billion** (based on historical U.S. Census undercount). Just think of the increased funding for government programs, infrastructure improvements, and **our schools!**

Completing your census form ensures Carroll County families, neighbors and communities receive the support they need to live, work, play and grow.





The Census is **Easy**

Filling out your census form can be done in three ways – by mail, phone and online.

The 2020 census will be the first online census in United States history.

Answering the demographic questions in the census helps make sure Carroll County receives its fair share of funding and that economic development and planning decisions accurately reflect our community on April 1, 2020.

Some important facts to remember. Don't forget:

- College students should be counted at their college address, either on or off campus. They should be counted at their parents' home only if they live and sleep there.
- All children must be counted including those under five years old.

The Census is **Safe**

The U.S. Census Bureau must keep all information confidential, including all sensitive personal data. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your personal information.

- Data is collected for statistical purposes only and personal data is never disclosed.
- All census information is private and protected by law in Title 13 of the U.S. Code with violations punishable up to five years in federal prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.
- The Census will not email you.
- The Census will not ask you for your social security number.
- The Census will not ask about money or donations.
- The Census will not ask about anything on behalf of a political party.
- The Census will not ask about your bank or credit card account numbers.

You may choose the way that you will be counted – by mail, by phone or online.

Make yourself count by filling out your Census form in 2020 Carroll County!!!

It is the portrait of us that will last ten years, so let's get everyone in the picture.

Census.Maryland.gov

Email: Census@Maryland.gov • **Twitter:** @MDCensus2020 • **Phone:** 410.767.4500



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