



### LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



**D**ear Residents:

On behalf of myself and the Common Council, I would like to give special thanks to the citizens of Westminster for your efforts during the past two weeks. The recent snowfall we experienced has been trying for us all. I want to thank you for your patience during the snow removal process when our roads crew spent countless hours plowing and removing the mountains of snow throughout the City. I would also like to recognize those generous residents who have helped neighbors and friends remove snow, clear mailboxes, shop for groceries, and obtain needed medications. The Blizzard of 2010 has brought our community together and made us stronger.

Last month, we reflected on the events and accomplishments of 2009. This month I would like to talk about our goals for 2010. There is no question that the City of Westminster has suffered from the downturn in the economy just like the State of Maryland and Carroll County. And there can be no question that our activities and services will be adapted to reflect that reality when we begin to define our budget priorities for next year.

However, there are certain broad principles we will follow in setting our goals for the coming year:

- 1. We will complete projects already underway.** All of these projects were started in 2009 and grant funds are available for their completion.
  - Complete Pennsylvania Avenue/Union Street streetscape project. This project has already slowed the traffic and provided safe pedestrian crossings and, when completed, this area will provide an attractive, landscaped thoroughfare.
  - Construct and sell nine affordable townhomes in the Episcopal Housing Corporation Union Crossing project.
  - Repair and modify our parks and playgrounds to make them accessible for our handicapped residents.
  - Complete the final leg of the trail.
  - Complete and dedicate the Community Building in City Park, providing a concession stand, community meeting room and office for the Fall Fest volunteers.
  - Install the economic stimulus-funded “read only” water meters in the remainder of the City water system.
- 2. We will position the City to take advantage of the economic recovery.** We will continue the efforts that support economic development in the City.
  - Implement Main Street business owners’ recommendations to assist our businesses in maintaining their economic vitality.
  - Focus on the Route 27 corridor plan and enlist support from various business groups and organizations to jump start this business expansion.
  - Strengthen our business partnerships with the Westminster Town Center Corporation and the Greater Westminster Development Corporation.
- 3. We will continue to improve our physical infrastructure in support of the City’s programs and activities.**
  - Complete the construction of the Gesell well to conclude our production requirements under the Consent Order with MDE.
  - Explore the use of ground water from the Union Mills area to ensure that water will be available for new industry in the Technology Park and for infill development projects.
  - Move into the engineering and design phase of the required upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

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- Equip all municipal agencies, the County Sheriff's Office and the State Police with computerized access to all databases in the patrol cars. This will improve the effectiveness of our patrol officers as they will be able to complete searches and reports in their cars and not in the station. This is a County-wide, stimulus-funded activity.
- Implement Maryland Energy Agency funded energy saving measures in City owned buildings—improvements include energy efficient lighting, replacement of windows, and improvements to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems which will save the City significant utility costs in the future.

#### 4. **We will continue to streamline the delivery of services to our residents.**

- Implement a Citizen Request System that will enable requests for City services to be made over the web page or via telephone at any time, not only during regular working hours.
- Adopt an electronic payment system to allow customers to pay their tax and utility bills and recreation services fees over the Internet.
- Modify our procedures for bulk trash pickup service.

While we still face serious budget restrictions this year, we have maximized the use of available grant funds to continue our progress and have examined our current processes and procedures to improve the services we deliver to our citizens.

*Kevin Utz*

Mayor

### Historic District Commission Report

We are in search of motivated citizens who care about the historic buildings and sites of Westminster to serve on the Historic District Commission. The commission meets one evening per month, and conducts special projects as they arise.

No special training or education is required!

If interested, contact

Tim Rogers in the Planning Department at 410-848-4628 or Mayor Utz's office at 410-848-2522.



WESTMINSTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

We are currently in the early planning stages for the 2010 Holiday House Tour, which will showcase the lovely homes and churches of Historic Belle Grove Square. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2010, and will be held rain or shine (or snow).

We have begun planning a Preservation Month Open House for May 2010. The meeting will offer a chance to meet HDC members, learn about tax credits for working on your historic home, and find out about opportunities to get involved in preservation activities in Westminster. Check the City's website for more information in the coming months. For more information, contact Tim Rogers in the Planning Department at 410-848-4628 or [trogers@westgov.com](mailto:trogers@westgov.com).

### Westminster Road Runners Host Main Street Mile Run



The Main Street Mile once again hits the streets of Downtown Westminster on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Sponsored by the Westminster Road Runners Club, 700 runners from all over the county and the State of Maryland are expected to race down East Main Street to the library in Downtown Westminster, beginning at 7:00 p.m. There are two heats at this annual event which will be held rain or shine. Heat #1 is officially timed and scored, and prizes will be awarded.

Heat #2 is a Fun Run with medals being awarded to all children, ages 10 and under, who finish the race. To qualify for Heat #1, you must be at least 11 years old and be capable of running a mile in less than 10 minutes. There is no on-site registration for the event, although runners will still pick up their race packets at the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department at 28 John Street. For registration information, contact Beth Weisenborn at [wrrc.web@gmail.com](mailto:wrrc.web@gmail.com) or call 717-677-6883.

### Crime Prevention Tips: Thefts from Vehicles

The Westminster community has experienced a marked increase in the number of thefts from vehicle cases over the past year. In the majority of the cases, the victim's vehicle was not locked and items of value were in plain view in the vehicle.



The Westminster Police Department offers these following suggestions to minimize the chance that YOU or a member of your family will be a victim:

- Always lock your vehicle when it is unoccupied.
- Don't leave articles of value inside the vehicle. Lock them in the trunk or take them with you.
- Park your vehicle in well lit areas after dark.
- Never leave your vehicle running while unattended.
- Know your tag number, make, model and year of your vehicle.

**CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY AT 410-848-4646 IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS!**

### Volunteer of the Year Award



Congratulations to Lori Graham, winner of the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award. Ms. Graham was presented with this award at the 2009 Westminster Police Department Award ceremony on March 17, 2010. She is pictured on the left with Chief Jeff Spaulding, Mayor Kevin Utz, and Councilman Tony Chiavacci.



## Recreation & Parks Events: April, May & June

**April 3: Easter Egg Hunt.** Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Westminster City Hall Grounds (1838 Emerald Hill Lane). Times are 10:30am for ages 1-4 and 11:30am for ages 5-8.



There will be over 4,000 filled plastic eggs and 100 special prize eggs scattered about. The hunts are **FREE** and open to the public. A bunny petting zoo, face painting, basket raffles, and food will be available for purchase. Hunts are RAIN OR SHINE!

**April 10, 10am: Father/Son Golf Tournament.** The 5th annual golf event will take place at Westminster's Island Green. The cost is \$25/twosome, which includes light refreshments, awards, and door prizes.

Trophies will be awarded to the 1st place winners in the following age groups: 5-7, 8-10, and 11-13 years old. Tournament is limited to 36 twosomes, which are comprised of ONE ADULT MALE and ONE MALE CHILD GRADES K-8th. Rain date is April 17th. Sponsored by Westminster Barber Shop in the 140 Village Shopping Center.



**May 8, 9:30am: Flower and Jazz Fun Run.** The Fun Run is held at the Wakefield Valley Community Trail (Tahoma Farm Road). There will be a 200-yard dash for children ages 6 and under starting at 9am. The one mile fun run starts at 9:15am for ages 7 and up. The timed 5K will begin at 9:30am. A \$20 donation is requested; a \$5 discount is available when registering 2 or more participants.

**May 8, 10am—4pm: Flower & Jazz Festival.** The Flower & Jazz Festival takes place in Historic Downtown Westminster and is designed for a leisurely day of fun and jazz. Delicious food and great entertainment will be offered. Local nurseries set up beautiful displays of unusual plants and shrubs. Over 100 craft vendors display a wide variety of unique items. This event is open to the public. Moms: Don't forget to visit the information table for your free gift! **Admission and parking are FREE!** *No pets please.* A vendor form is required. Call for more information: 410-848-4883.



**May 12 & 19, 6:30-9pm: Mother/Son Date & Father/Daughter Date.** Events are held at Martin's Westminster and are \$60 per couple. Boys and girls must be K-8th. The evening includes dinner, dancing, games, door prizes, a 5x7 photo of the couple, parting gifts, and much more! Tickets are non-refundable and must be prepaid. A couple is considered one adult and one child—NO EXCEPTIONS. Tickets go on sale March 3rd; space is limited!



**May 31, 10am: Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.** The Parade starts at 10am on Pennsylvania Avenue and ends on Church Street at the Westminster Cemetery. A memorial service will begin at 11am in the cemetery. For more information contact Daniel Bohn at 410-848-6179.



**June 5 : Art in the Park.** Held from 10am to 5pm on the City Hall Grounds (1838 Emerald Hill Lane) rain or shine. This is a festival of visual and performing arts featuring dozens of the region's most talented painters, photographers, and fine craft artists. Continuous live music and free kids crafts. **FREE** admission and parking. **NO PETS!** For more information call 410-848-7272. [www.carrollcountyartscouncil.org](http://www.carrollcountyartscouncil.org)

**June 15-August 23: 3 on 3 Basketball.** Five weeks of fundamentals and drills and five weeks of games. The league is for boys and girls ages 5-13. Fundamentals and games will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8pm. Fee is \$30. Go to [www.hoopeducation.com/](http://www.hoopeducation.com/) carroll\_county or email [shane@hoopeducation.com](mailto:shane@hoopeducation.com).



**June 26-27 : Corbit's Charge Civil War Commemoration and Encampment.** **FREE** Admission. Activities include: Civil War Living History Encampment, Ceremony at Corbit's Charge Monument, guided tours of battle site, several Civil War era musical concerts, period artisans performing their craft, visit with Abraham Lincoln, period children events & games and view the daily lives of soldiers and civilians of 1863. Saturday 10am-9pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. For more information [www.pccwrt.org](http://www.pccwrt.org) or call 410-848-9161.

### Westminster Family Center

The Westminster Family Fitness Center is a full service Health and Wellness Center for all ages! Features include many weight machines and free weight options, cardio equipment, aerobics classes, locker rooms and showers, and a game room. It is open 7 days a week, and memberships and daily guest fees apply. Call for rates or to ask about renting the gymnasium: 410-751-5501. Child supervision is available.

### Westminster Municipal Pool

The Westminster Municipal Pool is open daily starting Memorial Day through Labor Day. The pool is located at 325 Royer Road and is open to the public. Pool applications are being accepted now! 2010 member fees are \$200/City Family membership and \$128/City Individual membership; \$260/County Family membership and \$146/County Individual membership. Call for more information: 410-857-5673.

## Carroll Arts Center Events: April and May

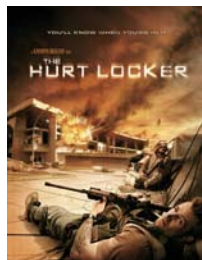
**Friday, April 2, 8pm:** *Enchanted April*; 1992, 95 mins, PG. Presented by FLICC, this lavishly romantic film is an Academy Award winner and a favorite with the ladies. Set during post World War I, this gorgeously filmed story follows four women who rent a chateau on a remote Italian island to try to come to grips with their lives and relationships. They explore the differences in their personalities, reassess their goals, and reexamine their relationships in a sisterly fashion. Together they find romance, hope and ultimately liberation during their month-long holiday. It is described as a sumptuous "mini-trip" through the breathtaking countryside of Italy. The screening is scheduled to coincide with the annual Purse Auction sponsored by the Seniors Keep in Touch (SKIT) which is also held at the Carroll Arts Center.



**May 7, 8 and 9:** "Pied Piper". The Carroll County Arts Council, in partnership with the Maryland Ensemble Theatre, will be presenting a fully staged musical "Pied Piper" on May 7, 8 and 9. After a competitive round of auditions and a rigorous 12-week rehearsal period, fifty young actors, singers and dancers will make their stage debut in this colorful family show. The show is based on the traditional fairy tale with a few humorous contemporary twists. Shows will take place on Friday, May 7 at 7 pm, Saturday May 8 at 3 pm and 7 pm and Sunday, May 9 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18 and seniors.

## Pied Piper

**Friday, May 14, 8pm:** *The Hurt Locker*. Presented by FLICC, this film won the 2010 Academy Award for Best Film. An intense portrayal of elite soldiers who have one of the most dangerous jobs in the world: disarming bombs in the heat of combat. As the men struggle to control a wild new leader, the surrounding city explodes into chaos. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for CCAC members, students under 18 and seniors.



## Carroll Arts Center Galleries

The Carroll Arts Center will mount an exhibit inspired by the iconic American painter, Edward Hopper. "Between Light and Shadow" will feature works by contemporary artists that share Hopper's aesthetic style of mingling bright light with foreboding shadow. Landscapes and figurative paintings that reveal a sense of quiet solitude and private introspection, typical of Hopper's work, will be a strong element of this exhibit. The show was curated by Susan Williamson, the Visual Arts Coordinator for the Carroll Arts Center. "Between Light & Shadow" will be on view in the Tevis Gallery of the Carroll Arts Center from April 22 through June 5. A special reception for Arts Council members is scheduled for Thursday, April 22 from 5:30-6:30 pm. The general public is invited to meet the artists from



6:30 – 7:30 the same evening. Local artists in "Between Light & Shadow" include: Charles Beck, Mt. Airy; Steven DeLuca and DiAnn Grimes, Westminster. Other artists include: Patrick Kluga, Baltimore; Frank Smith, Baltimore; Willie

Schlossbach, Queenstown, MD; and Nancy Tankersley, Easton, MD. Gallery admission is free. The Carroll Arts Center is open 10am-4pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday and Saturday, and from 10am-8pm on Thursday. The Carroll Arts Center is a restored art deco movie theatre, located at 91 West Main Street in the heart of downtown Westminster. For more information call 410/848-7272 or visit [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org)

**3rd Annual Peep Show: April 9—17, 10am—8pm daily except April 11 (1-5pm) and April 15 (event closes at 5pm). Admission is FREE!** This

wacky event has quickly become one of the most anticipated community events and attracts more than 5,000 visitors from the region. Last year's event attracted 140 amazingly creative entries, including a ball gown tailored entirely out of Peeps, an over-sized Rubik's cube comprised of 1,600 Peeps, a Keith Haring artistic masterpiece recreated in Peeps and even several stop-action Peep films. It is truly an astounding display of sculpture, dioramas, mosaics and graphic arts. The public can vote for their favorites by purchasing vote chips (\$1 each, 10 for \$5 or 25 for \$10) and placing them into a container next to each work of art. Last year more than 9,000 votes were cast! Awards to those receiving the top five highest votes will be announced at the closing reception on Saturday, April 17. All proceeds will benefit the Carroll County Arts Council, one of the community's most vibrant non-profit organizations. There will also be an array of Peep souvenirs and Peep treats for sale. Sponsored by local orthodontist Dr. Edward M. Goldman.

