



NEWS FROM THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL

Since you received the last newsletter, the Mayor and Common Council have enacted several pieces of new legislation. Below is an update on these matters, as well as other City initiatives.

Former Livestock Auction Property

On November 26, 2018, the Common Council authorized the Mayor to execute documents associated with the City's purchase of the former Westminster Livestock Auction property, located at 1117 Old New Windsor Road, at a cost of \$800,000. The City closed on the property on December 10. Acquiring the property gives the City control of the use of this parcel, which is adjacent to Westminster's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Effective December 17, 2018, the City leased the former Livestock Auction property to HRI, Inc. (the contractor for the Enhanced Nutrient Reduction and Biosolids Upgrade project). HRI will use the property for materials storage, worker parking, and offices for the duration of the project. Resolution No. 19-04 was introduced on January 28, 2019. This resolution was the first step in the process of annexing the property into the corporate boundaries of the City of Westminster. The City's annexation petition will now be considered by County and State agencies.

Firearms Sales in the D-B Downtown Business Zone

The Mayor and Common Council adopted Ordinance No. 903 on January 14, 2019, allowing firearms sales in the D-B Downtown Business Zone; the D-B Zone represents a majority of the Main Street/historic Downtown area of Westminster. Firearms sales will not be allowed in properties that abut Main Street. Applicants seeking to sell firearms sales will need to apply and obtain a Special Exception from the Westminster Board of Zoning Appeals.

Former West End School Property

The City has reached an agreement to sell the former West End School property to Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland (FCS) at the property's appraised value. The City has leased the property, located at 7 Schoolhouse Avenue, to FCS since 1998. FCS wishes to expand its medical adult day care services, affordable senior housing, and domestic violence services to meet the ever-growing need in Carroll County. Ordinance No. 904, adopted on January 28, 2019, authorizes the Mayor to execute all documents associated with the real estate transaction. FCS has up to two years to secure funding for its expansion project and close on the property.

New Board of Elections

On January 14, 2019, the Common Council adopted Ordinance No. 905 which, among other things, provided for the establishment of a Board of Elections. The Board will enhance the efficiency of City elections, as well as provide separation between the City election process and City staff. The six members of the Board of Elections will address all issues arising in connection with the operation of the polling places. If you are a City of Westminster and are interested in serving on the newly established Board of Elections, please contact the City Clerk at 410-848-4938.

WWTP ENR and Biosolids Project

The City is undertaking major improvements at its Wastewater Treatment Plant. These improvements include an upgrade to provide for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR), modifications to the County's septage facility on the site, work associated with solids processing, and the replacement of certain equipment that is beyond its useful life. Substantial completion of the project is expected to take 42 months. On January 28, 2019, the Mayor and Common Council adopted Ordinance No. 906, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds for the project. The bonds, in the total amount of about \$29.0 million, will be issued through the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration.

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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)

Rooming and Boarding Houses

On January 14, 2019, the Mayor and Common Council introduced Ordinance No. 907 regarding boarding and rooming houses. If adopted, this ordinance would prohibit boarding and rooming houses in the City beginning January 1, 2026. The Westminster Planning and Zoning Commission will discuss the proposed ordinance and provide its recommendation to the Mayor and Common Council.

Bid Award for Inflow and Infiltration Project

One of the Mayor and Common Council's highest priorities is to ensure that there is adequate water and sewer capacity to ensure Westminster's continued economic prosperity. One of their goals is to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewer system, restoring capacity. On January 28, 2019, the Mayor and Common Council awarded a contract in the amount of \$1,172,100 to Standard Pipe Services LLC as part of the City's ongoing efforts in this area.

PLANNING THE FUTURE: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Westminster Planning and Zoning Commission reviews new projects and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council. In the last quarter of 2018, the Commission voted to approve a new site plan for a CVS Pharmacy, a retail center, and a car dealer at the corner of Center Street and MD 140. The Commission also recommended expanding opportunities for diverse and affordable housing in the City, as well as expanding allowable uses in the City's historic downtown; these uses included sites for taverns and nightclubs, car washes at repair facilities, and gun sales in certain circumstances.

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!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE WESTMINSTER FIBER NETWORK?

On August 28, 2018, Ting Fiber, Inc. submitted an application to the City formally requesting the award of a cable television franchise. A public hearing concerning this matter was held on November 26, and the Mayor and Common Council voted on this date to award the requested franchise to Ting. The franchise agreement is for a term of ten years. Ting continues to build its TV product that will be unveiled during late 2019.

Are you ready for lightning-fast Internet? Completion of this final stage of the Westminster Fiber Network is expected in the first quarter of 2019. If you want to connect to the WFN, sign up for service with Ting and complete an Access Agreement. For your convenience, visit AccessAgreement.com to submit your form electronically. Be sure to follow the WFN on Facebook and Twitter for construction updates, breaking news, and overall progress reports on the project.

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 stormdrain 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.

Thank you for your patience while we work to make travel safe for everyone.

8th ANNUAL 5K CELTIC CANTER & DOWNTOWN IRISH CELEBRATION

Join us in Downtown Westminster on March 9 at 9am for the annual 5K run. The first 200 runners can register for an early bird rate of \$25. That's \$7 off! For more information, visit CelticCanter.org. Plus, enjoy the Downtown Irish Celebration from 8:30am until 12pm, bringing Irish-themed music, food, and vendors to East Main Street between Rt 27 and Longwell Avenue.

8th ANNUAL RESTAURANT WEEK

Downtown Westminster Restaurant Week returns April 12—21. Keep watch on our website for details, including participating restaurants and their menu specials for that week!

4th ANNUAL WINE STROLL

Tickets are on sale now for the Downtown Westminster Wine Stroll on April 14, from 2-7pm; special VIP tickets are available for additional perks! Visit our website for more information on activities, vendors, participating wineries, and more!

Upcoming Events for February 2019

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

- * 1/8-3/2: Exhibit: "Elements"
- * 1/8-3/2: Exhibit: "Inspired by Pearls"
- * Friday, 2/1: Foreign Film Fest "A Fantastic Woman," 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 2/2: Eric Byrd Trio: Nat King Cole Tribute, 7:30pm
- * Friday, 2/8: Foreign Film Fest "Truman," 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Friday, 2/15: Foreign Film Fest "Dukhtar," 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Monday, 2/18: Magician Dave Thomen, 11am
- * Friday, 2/22: Foreign Film Fest "Cinema Paradiso," 1pm & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 2/23: Carroll's Got Talent, 3pm & 7:30pm
- * Sunday, 2/24: Oscar Nominated Shorts, 1pm

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

- * Saturday, 2/16: Past Times for Children—One-Room Schoolhouse, Cockey's Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Tuesday, 2/19: Box Lunch Talk—Maryland 400, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon

Carroll County Public Library—Westminster Branch, 51 E Main Street, <https://library.carr.org/>

- * Wednesday, 2/6: Westminster Book Discussion Group, 6:30pm
- * Sunday, 2/10: Second Sunday Soundstage, 2pm

Upcoming Events for March 2019

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

- * 1/8-3/2: Exhibit: "Elements"
- * 1/8-3/2: Exhibit: "Inspired by Pearls"
- * 3/6-3/26: Exhibit: "Youth Art Month"
- * Friday, 3/8: "Lawrence of Arabia" 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 3/9: Teelin Irish Dance, 3pm & 7pm
- * Friday, 3/15 and Saturday, 3/16: Barleyjuice, 8pm
- * Friday, 3/29: On Stage - "A Year With Frog & Toad Kids," 7pm
- * Saturday, 3/30: On Stage - "A Year With Frog & Toad Kids," 1pm & 4pm
- * Sunday, 3/31: On Stage - "A Year With Frog & Toad Kids," 1pm

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

- * Saturday, 3/16: Past Times for Children—Health Habits in the 1800s, Cockey's Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Tuesday, 3/19: Box Lunch Talk, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon

Carroll County Public Library—Westminster Branch, 51 E Main Street, <https://library.carr.org/>

- * Wednesday, 3/6: Westminster Book Discussion Group, 6:30pm

Upcoming Events for April 2019

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

- * Friday, 4/5: "Colette" 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm
- * 4/12—4/23: PEEPshow

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

- * Tuesday, 4/16: Box Lunch Talk—The Robert Garrett Sanitarium: History, Stories, Generosity, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon

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 to receive a call back on 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 6 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



2019 Scheduled Collection Weeks

January: 12/31 – 1/4; 1/14 – 1/18; and 1/28 – 2/1. *NO pickups on 1/1*

February: 2/11 – 2/15 and 2/25 – 3/1

March: 3/11 – 3/15 and 3/25 – 3/29

April: 4/8 – 4/12; and 4/23 – 4/26. *NO pickups on 4/22*

May: 5/6 – 5/10 and 5/20 – 5/24

June: 6/3 – 6/7 and 6/17 – 6/21

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*

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.