



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

March 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. 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. The project kick off meeting was held on February 21, 2020.

Vaping Ordinance Adopted

On February 24, 2020, the Mayor and Common Council adopted Ordinance No. 920 which prohibit vaping in places of public accommodation as of July 1, 2020. Ordinance No 920 will 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, will not be impacted.

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.



The Carroll County Library, Westminster Branch will be holding an information session on Saturday, April 4 at 2:30pm. Learn about how the Census will impact our community, and take advantage of their available laptops to complete the survey that day! Contact the Library at 410-386-4488 for additional details.

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 WTTR 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 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.

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
- * 3/20-3/22: Seussical Kids, Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 1pm and 4pm, Sunday at 1pm
- * 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

Carroll County Public Library, Westminster Branch, 50 E Main Street, library.carr.org or 410-386-4490

- * Friday, 4/24: The Andy & Judy Concert, 11am

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

Upcoming Events for May 2020

Annual Flower & Jazz Festival & 5K

The annual Flower and Jazz Festival will held on Saturday, May 9 from 10am—4pm in Downtown Westminster. Main Street will be filled with craft/commercial vendors, delectable food vendors, and nursery/flower vendors. It is a great event for the entire family with special appeal to moms, grandmothers, sisters and daughters. Visit our website for more information: www.WestminsterMD.gov/FlowerJazz.

Westminster Volunteer Fire Department Annual Spring Raffle

May 28, 6-9pm, 28 John Street. Tickets \$10, includes dinner and soda/beer. Total cash giveaway \$15,000! Proceeds benefit Capital Improvement Projects for WVFD. For tickets, visit the fire station and ask for Bob Ruby or Jennifer White, or call 410-848-1800, ext 0.

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

- * Saturday, 5/2: Carroll Playwright's Festival, 7pm
- * Saturday, 5/9: An Evening of Chamber Music, 7pm
- * Saturday, 5/16: TolumiDE, 8pm
- * Saturday, 5/30: The Andrew Collins Trio, 8pm

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

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*



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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.