



NEWS FROM THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL

The Mayor and Common Council have been working on several pieces of legislation over the past few months. On August 13, 2018, a rezoning was approved to allow a medical cannabis dispensary at 330 140 Village Road (specifically tenant spaces Unit 7 and Unit 8). With this rezoning, two sites in Westminster are now eligible for medical cannabis dispensaries.

At a special meeting on October 1, 2018, the Mayor and Common Council made a notice of award for major improvements at Westminster's Wastewater Treatment Plant. This \$60+ million project will include a plant 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. The Mayor and Common Council have also approved associated contracts for engineering services during construction and construction management, inspection, and testing services. They also modified an agreement with Carroll County to reflect the actual construction cost of the septage facility improvements. The Wastewater Treatment Plant project will get underway in January 2019, with substantial completion expected to take 42 months.

A resolution modifying the City's Water and Sewer Allocation Policy and associated Master Distribution Chart was adopted on October 8, 2018. The most substantive change involved the allocation of water and sewer capacity for two non-profit projects. The Carroll County Public Library is seeking to build out the currently unimproved basement at 50 East Main Street for new community space, including a commercial kitchen for classes and various groups; the project is anticipated to double the program space at the Library. The second project is construction of a new gymnasium addition to the Boys & Girls Club on East Main Street.

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) for \$130,000. HRI will use the property for materials storage, worker parking, and offices for the duration of the 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. With the goal of increasing the availability of water for growth purposes, the City is working to modify its existing State permit for Medford Quarry. Currently, the City can only pull water from the Quarry in emergency, drought conditions. The City is also pursuing the acceptance of water-reuse strategies through discussions with the Maryland Department of the Environment. The FY 2019 budget allocates \$1.25 million towards the City's ongoing efforts to reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewer system, restoring capacity. The Public Works Department opened bids for this work in December, with contract award expected in January.

On December 10, the Mayor and Common Council introduced Ordinance No. 903, which would allow firearms sales in the D-B Downtown Business Zone. Community members are invited to share their thoughts on the proposed ordinance at a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on January 14, 2019. The public hearing will be held at Westminster City Hall, located at 1838 Emerald Hill Lane.

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



FUTURE PROJECTS: PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Westminster Planning and Zoning Commission recently approved several exciting upcoming projects in the City. New projects include a new gymnasium addition to the Boys & Girls Club on East Main Street; a brand-new sales building for Heritage Honda; and, an upgrade to the Burger King in the Crossroads Square Shopping Center. The Commission also recommended approval of Ordinance No. 899 to permit taverns and nightclubs in the C-C Central Commerce Zone, and held an informal review of a new lifestyle and fashion boutique and two luxury apartments at the intersection of Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

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? For those in the Downtown area, your wait is nearly over! Phase 3 of the Westminster Fiber Network is complete, with several areas are now LIVE and ready for service connections. Phase 4 construction of the Westminster Fiber Network is progressing. 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.

SHOW SOME LOVE WESTMINSTER!

We are hosting our 4th annual social media photo contest in the spirit of the upcoming holiday... Valentine's Day! Follow the City of Westminster Recreation & Parks Department Facebook page to submit a photo of yourself, family, and/or friends at places, events, or things you LOVE about Westminster. Photos can be submitted beginning February 1 until 14 at 5 PM. Online voting will take place from February 16 through 27. The winner will be announced on February 28 and will receive six \$25 gift cards from restaurants in the Downtown Westminster area. That's right, \$150 of dining on us!

8th ANNUAL 5K CELTIC CANTER & DOWNTOWN IRISH CELEBRATION

Join us in Downtown Westminster on March 10 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.

Upcoming Events for January 2019

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

- * Friday, 1/4: "RGB", 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm
- * 1/8-3/2: Exhibit: "Elements"
- * 1/8-3/2: Exhibit: "Inspired by Pearls"
- * Friday, 1/11: "Rebels on Pointe", 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm
- * Friday, 1/18: "Mr. Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown", 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm
- * Monday, 1/21: "Harriet Tubman: The Chosen One", 2pm
- * Friday, 1/25: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm

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

- * Saturday, 1/5: Winter Wine Warmer, 4:30-7pm (\$40/\$45, *advanced reservations required*)
- * Tuesday, 1/15: Box Lunch Talk—Hail to the Chiefs: Presidential Visits to Carroll County, Grace Lutheran Church, Noon
- * Saturday, 1/19: Past Times for Children—Mary Shellman, Cockey's Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Saturday, 1/19: Carroll County Birthday Celebration: Highlighting the Late Unpleasantness Players, Civil War Vignettes, Grace Lutheran Church, 2pm

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

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"
- * Friday, 3/8: "Lawrence of Arabia" 1pm (captioned) & 7:30pm
- * Saturday, 3/9: Teelin Irish Dance, 3pm & 7pm
- * Friday, 3/15: Barleyjuice, 8pm
- * 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, Cockey's Koontz-Yingling Learning Center, 10am
- * Tuesday, 3/19: Box Lunch Talk, 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, *NO pickups on 1/1; 1/14 – 1/18; and 1/28 – 2/1*

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, *NO pickups on 7/4; 7/15 – 7/19; and 7/29 – 8/2*

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.