



THE DOWNTOWN WESTMINSTER MAIN STREET NEWS November/December 2011

The “Miracle on Main Street” Holiday Event Returns to Downtown Westminister on November 26th

Santa Claus is coming to town once again in a big way. To celebrate his arrival, Downtown Westminister will be abuzz with the “Miracle on Main Street” Holiday Event on Saturday, November 26th. The event, sponsored by the City of Westminister and the Downtown Westminister Main Street Program, kicks off with Westminister’s 3rd Annual Holiday Electric Parade at 5:00 p.m. Following the traditional parade route of Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street to Longwell Avenue, lighted floats (with more than 2,000 lights on each), marching bands, marching units, horses, exotic cars and of course, the big guy himself - Santa Claus - will pass in the review through Historic Downtown Westminister. Immediately following the parade, the City’s annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Locust Lane. Join Mayor Kevin R. Utz, Santa and other City Officials as they sing carols to the music of the Westminister Municipal Band and, along with help from all of the youngsters in attendance, light the holiday tree. After the tree is lit, the kids can head up to the gymnasium at the Westminister Family Fitness Center, 11 Longwell Avenue, where the City’s Department of Recreation and Parks will host Santa’s Treat from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This children’s event is free and will feature games, crafts, activities, prizes and much more. Of course, great food, drink and shopping can be discovered throughout downtown all day. If you do not get into the holiday spirit after such an action packed day in Downtown Westminister, your last name must be Scrooge!



Some photographs of last year’s “Miracle on Main Street” Holiday Event: A couple floats from the Holiday Electric Parade, Westminister Municipal Band playing holiday tunes at the holiday tree lighting ceremony, and Santa chatting with a fan at Santa’s Treat

The First Thursday Art History Series Presents *Diego Rivera* at the Carroll Arts Center on November 3rd

The First Thursday Art History Series will present a study of *Diego Rivera* at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on Thursday, November 3rd, at noon and 7:00 p.m. Diego Rivera and his wife, Frida Kahlo, were two powerful figures of the art world whose work has stood the test of time. Rivera’s work is a combination of classical techniques combined with Mexico’s indigenous history, the conquest and the political movements of the modern world. Susan Williamson, Visual Arts Coordinator, will present a lecture focusing on the genius and the controversy that surrounded Rivera’s larger than life personality and unbridled ambition and talent. Tickets are \$10.00 and \$8.00 for Arts Council members. Advance reservations are not required.

Painter Peter Plant is Off Track Art’s Guest Artist for November and December

Off Track Art, 11 Liberty Street - Side Entrance, is pleased to have Peter Plant as their guest artist for November and December. Peter Plant is a studio and plein air artist who has worked in a traditional style of painting in acrylics. However, over the past two years, Peter has branched out and experimented with a variety of mixed media techniques that have broadened his experience in both studio and plein air work. His goal is to explore media and techniques that enhance the creative experience while presenting realistic images to the viewer. Peter’s plein air work focuses on how history has influenced our lives today. He is intrigued by the interplay of history, human intervention, and nature that can be found in the landscape. An artist’s reception will be held at the gallery on Friday, November 4th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Film “*The Making of a Rock Orchestra*” Debuts at the Carroll Arts Center on November 5th

Kit and Kaboodle Productions of Eldersburg, Maryland premieres the film “*The Making of a Rock Orchestra*” at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on Saturday, November 5th, at 2:00 p.m. “*The Making of a Rock Orchestra*” chronicles Joe Dundore, a local music teacher, as he creates from scratch a 38-piece community band, teaches them 17 songs in 12 weeks and prepares them for a series of community concerts with proceeds going to various charities. He takes on the arduous tasks of finding band members who play a variety of instruments, composing and arranging rock and soul music, teaching children and adults to play music together, introducing singers to the process and performing live for organizations throughout Maryland - all in the name of charity. From the very first practice through near-disastrous rehearsals, and finally the recording of their very first CD the band overcomes many adversities. Although seemingly hopeless, this group of talented individuals grow from a community band into a much sought-after rock orchestra. Tickets are available at the door for \$3.00. The DVD of *The Making of a Rock Orchestra* will be available for sale in the lobby for \$15.00, along with other merchandise including Dare to Dream, their inaugural CD.

Common Ground on the Hill Presents Sierra Hull & Highway 111 on November 5th at the Carroll Arts Center

Common Ground on the Hill's 2011-2012 Concerts Series is pleased to present bluegrass sensation Sierra Hull and Highway 111 at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on Saturday, November 5th, beginning at 8:00 p.m. In an age where music is defined by age group, Sierra Hull is a wonder. Her music career started in her teens and is still going strong. Many young musicians in today's day and age will meet success with the adolescent audience before losing touch with that generation and floundering for success. Yet Sierra Hull is different. She recorded her first album when she was 15 and released it when she was 16. From the first listen, it was apparent that *Secrets* was on a different level than other albums that were released by artists of a similar age. Her album was mature, fresh and sensible. Though she was just a kid, it was clear that her music was not meant for the ears of children. Sierra was talented and the music world took notice. She attended Berklee College of Music where she was awarded the school's most prestigious award, the Presidential Scholarship, a first for a bluegrass musician; her choice to accept it, to delay her dream of hitting the road full-time after high school in favor of expanding her musical worldview, was hardly a light one. This decision shows her incredible resolve and foresight, a quality that is often missing in today's generation. The "mature child prodigy" label was not always meant for Sierra, however. In her latest album, *Daybreak*, Sierra shed the label and emerged as one of the genre's most recognizable vocalists and mandolin players. Catch Sierra and her wonderful band when they play the Carroll Arts Center on the 5th. Tickets are \$19.00 for adults and \$17.00 for students with ID, children 18 years & under and seniors 60 years & over. For tickets or more information on the 2011-2012 Concert Series, call Common Ground on the Hill at (410) 857-2771.



Sierra Hull and her band, Highway 111, perform at the Carroll Arts Center on Saturday, November 5th

Common Ground on the Hill Establishes a Ticket Voucher Program with Three Downtown Restaurants

Those who attend the 2011-2012 Common Ground on the Hill Concert Series at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, can benefit from a novel ticket voucher program. According to Common Ground on the Hill Executive Director Walt Michael, at each of the concerts, ticket holders may exchange their ticket for a voucher worth \$5.00 toward food or beverages at three of Downtown Westminster's fine eateries: Harry's Main Street Grille at 65 West Main Street, Johansson's Dining House at 4 West Main Street and Rafael's at 32 West Main Street. "One of our directors, George Perkins, developed this arts-business partnership," Michael explained. "It is a win-win-win for Common Ground on the Hill, the restaurants, and the Carroll Arts Center. We are blessed to have a great, intimate venue surrounded by such excellent dining choices. The ticket voucher program leverages these assets and rewards the patrons of the concerts by world class artists that Common Ground on the Hill presents. The program symbolizes our commitment to downtown Westminster." The Common Ground on the Hill ticket voucher program is in effect for the concerts from November 5, 2011 to April 7, 2012. The vouchers are good for five weeks after the concert at which they were obtained.

November 8th's Box Lunch Talk Focuses on the Lehigh Cement Company, Then & Now

In 1909, a group of businessmen established the Tidewater Portland Cement Company to take advantage of the limestone deposits near Union Bridge and the following year opened a plant south of the town. Join Jeff Hook as he examines the history of the business now known as Lehigh Cement Company and the physical improvements that have made the plant one of the largest in the country at the Tuesday, November 8th Box Lunch Talk. Presented by the Historical Society of Carroll County (HSCC), the Box Lunch Talks are a monthly lecture series on topics relating to local history. The talks are held the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at Carroll Post #31 of the American Legion at the corner of East Green and Sycamore Streets. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided for all. Admission is \$1.00 for Historical Society members and a \$4.00 donation is requested from non-members.

The 38th Annual Mistletoe Mart Brings the Holiday Season to Downtown Westminster Beginning November 10th

The 38th Annual Mistletoe Mart at the Church of the Ascension, 23 North Court Street, helps kick off the Holiday Season from Thursday, November 10th through Saturday, November 12th. Purchase items from one of the fifty juried crafters or unusual gift shops. Additionally, there will be a café with savory fare, a silent auction, door prizes and tea served throughout the day. The Mistletoe Mart is open Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$6.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under the age of 12. For more information, go to: <http://www.mistletoemart.org>.

Veterans' Day Service to be Held at the Old Westminster Armory on November 11th

Westminster's annual remembrance service for Veterans' Day will be held on Friday, November 11th, at 4:00 p.m., at the Westminster Family Center (the old Westminster Armory), 11 Longwell Avenue. This year's guest speaker is 1st Sergeant James Saunders, 29th MP CO. The service is open to the public and honors veterans of the past and present. A wreath-laying ceremony will immediately follow on City Hall grounds. For information on the service or the wreath-laying, call Carroll Post #31 of the American Legion at (410) 857-7953 or (410) 876-0746.

Catch Disney's "Mulan Jr." at the Carroll Arts Center November 11th - 13th

The Carroll County Arts Council, in partnership with the Maryland Ensemble Theatre, will be presenting Disney's "Mulan Jr.," featuring the talents of more than 50 of Carroll County's most talented teenagers, at the Carroll Arts Center from November 11th through November 13th. Based on the 1998 Disney film "Mulan" and the story *Fa Mulan* by Robert D. San Souci, travel in time to the Northern Wei Dynasty in this fun-filled adventure. China is under attack and Mulan decides to join the fight with the help of her dragon guardian Mushu. Audiences will recognize Disney song favorites such as "Reflection," "I'll Make a Man out of You" and "A Girl Worth Fighting For." The show is directed by Julie Herber of Maryland Ensemble Theatre, with Tabetha White as Assistant Director and Stage Manager. Show times are 7:00 p.m. on Friday November 11th, 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 12th and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13th. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for Arts Council members, students 18 & under and seniors 60+. For tickets or more information, call (410) 848-7272.



Kylie Cooley will portray Mulan November 11th - 13th at the Carroll Arts Center



The Library will be officially dedicating the stage where the downtown summer concert series were held on November 12th

Westminster Branch Library Dedicates the Library Stage on November 12th

Join the staff of the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library, 50 East Main Street, for the dedication of the David Speicher Booth and Michael Lippincott Booth Memorial Stage on Saturday, November 12th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Then enjoy the music of Ceol Anam Cara, which means Friends of Music, on the stage. They will perform traditional music from Ireland and the British Isles, featuring jigs, reels and songs. Children 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Refreshments will be served.

Jump Start Your Holiday Shopping at Midnight Madness - The Holiday Edition on November 18th

Don't miss Midnight Madness - The Holiday Edition, Downtown's new, late night, holiday retail sales event on Friday, November 18th, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Stroll through downtown and view the holiday-themed window displays as the downtown businesses get into the spirit of the season. Grab a bite to eat at one of our fine eateries to energize yourself before shopping to your heart's content. Check out all of Downtown's shops for those one-of-a-kind gifts you can't find in the mall or the big box stores before it's too late! Finally, begin filling up your "Westminster Shopopoly" game board for a chance at great prizes. Outside entertainment for the evening includes the *Garage All-Stars* on the Locust Lane Stage from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; *Wylde Fire Band* on the grounds of American Auction and Appraisal, 35 West Main Street, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and *Karaoke by Raptor Productions* on the front porch of Harry's Main Street Grille, 59 West Main Street from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be inside activities too! Birdie's Café, 233 East Main Street will have *Jesse & Jeremy* performing from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for your listening pleasure. Coffey Music, 31 East Main Street, will have a bluegrass jam beginning at 7:00 p.m. Furnace Hills Coffee Company, 71 West Main Street, will be holding a "coffee cupping" featuring Samuel Demise from Keffa Coffee Company at 7:00 p.m. The Carroll Arts Center will be showing the film "A Touch of Spice" in the theater at 7:30 p.m. Later in the evening, Johansson's Dining House, 4 West Main Street, will have *Triple Shot* playing from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. while Rafael's, 32 West Main Street will have *Rich Fehle*. Already announced special offers and events for Midnight Madness - The Holiday Edition include: \$1 off per pound on coffee sold during the event at the Furnace Hills Coffee Company; receive a 0% to 30% discount on your purchase when you draw from the discount box at The Main Arterie, 51 East Main Street; 50% off studio fees from 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. at The Pottery Loft; 10% off Mara Relief Prints & Handmade Journals, as well as StanPat Photography at Eclecticity, 13 John Street; celebrate Unique Jewelry's 20th Anniversary with jewelry priced 20-50% off its regular retail price; receive 20% off all purchases of \$25.00 or more at Ballard-Bunting Boutique, 77 East Main Street - Rear Entrance; enter the Friday Night Magic Commander Tournament that begins at 6:00 p.m. at Gotham Comics, 15 East Main Street; and a special sale for existing clients, product tastings and special incentives to anyone scheduling an appointment for a Consultation/Weight Loss Analysis between November 21st and November 30th at Physicians Weight Loss Center, 37 John Street - Suite C.

Play "Westminster Shopopoly" from November 18th - 26th for a Chance to Win Great Downtown Westminster Prizes

Downtown Westminster is always a great place to shop and dine. During the Midnight Madness - The Holiday Edition event, it will be even better as you have a chance to win one of the many prizes, which total over \$1,000.00, by playing "Westminster Shopopoly" from 5:00 p.m. on November 18th to 2:00 p.m. on November 26th. What is "Westminster Shopopoly (Shop-op-oley)," you ask? Beginning Monday, November 14th, you can get a game board by either downloading it from the City's website - www.westminstermd.gov or getting one at a participating merchant while their supplies lasts. Starting at Midnight Madness - The Holiday Edition, you must visit at least 18 of the 24 businesses listed on the board and get it stamped at each business to be eligible to win prizes. Once you have at least 18 blocks stamped and provide your contact information on the game board, take the game board to one of the drop-off shops listed on the game board and place it in a designated box. The boxes will be picked up by Downtown Westminster Main Street Program personnel at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 26th. Winners will be drawn and notified on Monday, November 28th. Here are some of the prizes being offered: two \$15 gift cards to J Café; two \$20 gift cards to Birdie's Café; three \$20 gift cards to Maggie's Restaurant; a \$25 gift certificate to Ballard-Bunting Boutique; a \$25 gift certificate to Clementine's Country Boutique; a \$25 gift certificate to Eclecticity; a \$25 gift certificate to Gotham Comics; a \$25 gift certificate to Hats by Marjae; a \$25 gift certificate to Heinz Bakery; a \$25 gift certificate to Parent-Child Press; a \$25 gift certificate to The Hickory Stick; a \$25 gift certificate to The Olde Liberty Shoppe; a \$25 gift certificate to The Pottery Loft; \$100 gift certificate to

Pomeroy Jewelers; \$100 gift certificate to Unique Jewelry; two sets of 2 tickets to "A Christmas Carol" at the Carroll Arts Center; a decorative wine bottle cheese plate at The Main Arterie; Cheval Mirror at Westminster New & Used Furniture; a tea pot, 2 mugs and 2 bags of tea from CUP Tea Bar & Café; \$50 in Downtown Westminster Gift Certificates good at any participating business; \$100 in Downtown Westminster Gift Certificates good at any participating business; \$150 in Downtown Westminster Gift Certificates good at any participating business and other prizes yet to be announced.

FLICC Presents "A Touch of Spice" at the Carroll Arts Center on November 18th

Film Lovers in Carroll County (FLICC) are proud to present "A Touch of Spice" at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on Friday, November 18th, at 7:30 p.m. "A Touch of Spice" is a story about Fanis, a young Greek boy growing up in Istanbul, whose grandfather, a culinary philosopher and mentor, teaches him that both food and life require a little salt to give them flavor; they both require... A Touch of Spice. Fanis grows up to become an excellent cook and uses his cooking skills to spice up the lives of those around him. 35 years later he leaves Athens and travels back to his birthplace of Istanbul to reunite with his grandfather and his first love; he travels back only to realize that he forgot to put a little bit of spice in his own life. There will be a food collection box in the lobby to benefit Carroll Food Sunday. Anyone bringing a non-perishable food item will receive a free small popcorn. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for Arts Council members, students under 18 and seniors 60 years & over.

Meet the Author: Tonya Neumeister at the Westminster Branch Library on November 19th

Join local author Tonya Neumeister as she discusses and reads from her children's book *My Dog Eats Peas* at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library on Saturday, November 19th, at 1:00 p.m. Zeus, the dog who inspired the book, will also be there, so bring your camera! Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Children 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Downtown Westminster Farmers' Market Continues Until November 19th

While other Carroll County Farmers Markets have closed for the season, the Downtown Westminster Farmers' Market continues its 18th season every Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. until noon, until November 19th, to provide you with the freshest products for your Thanksgiving Day dinner. Don't forget to check out all of the fall items available at your downtown farmers' market, like fresh apples and cider. The market is conveniently located in the Conaway Parking Lot on Railroad Avenue (MD27), right across the street from the High's Convenience Store and Duke's Car Wash. For more information on the Downtown Westminster Farmers' Market and its special events for the remainder of the season, check out www.westminsterfarmfresh.com.



Even the early snowstorm on October 29th did not stop the farmers' market from being open

Carroll Arts Center Presents the Musical *Hans Brinker & the Silver Skates* on November 26th

As a prelude to the "Miracle on Main Street" Holiday Event, the Carroll Arts center is pleased to present the musical "*Hans Brinker & the Silver Skates*" at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 26th. The family-friendly musical will be performed by the acclaimed Arts Power, a New Jersey-based Touring Theatre Company. In order to help their ailing father and keep their family together, Hans and his younger sister must take risks and overcome obstacles. ArtsPower's touching holiday musical, based on the timeless family classic by Mary Mapes Dodge, is sure to warm the heart and revive the spirit of audiences everywhere. Audiences are encouraged to stay downtown after the show to get front row seats for Westminster's Annual Holiday Electric Parade that begins at 5:00 p.m. that evening. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$6.00 for Arts Council members, students 18 years & under and seniors 60 years & over. For more information or to reserve tickets in advance, call (410) 848-7272.

In This Corner - The Knock'em Out Comedy Show at the Carroll Arts Center on November 26th

Catch five rounds of adult comedy at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on Saturday, November 26th, beginning at 8:30 p.m., when the Knock'em Out Comedy Show takes center stage. Ben Rosen, Sean Carlucci, Randy David, CJ Stottuth and "Duck" will bring their comedic stylings to the stage. They will have an audience 1 Joke Competition for the chance to win a cash prize. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance; \$15.00 at the door. You must be 18 years of age or older to attend this event. For tickets, call the Arts Center at (410) 848-7272. For more information or to enter the 1 Joke Competition, call (410) 751-9650 and ask for Tanya.

Catch the Holiday Spirit by Checking Out the Holiday Storefronts in Downtown Westminster

Get into the holiday spirit by taking a stroll downtown with your loved ones any evening after Thanksgiving and checking out the numerous holiday storefront and window displays. Downtown Westminster is truly a festive-looking place heading into the holidays with all of the decorated trees, shrubs and holiday lights done by the City and the many wonderful window displays completed by the downtown businesses. While many of the windows are done up to compete in the Mayor's Cup Holiday Storefront Decorating Contest that will be awarded at the December 12th Mayor & Common Council Meeting, there are just as many that do it solely for the spirit of the season. Come to Downtown Westminster and enjoy!



Here is a sampling of holiday window displays in Downtown Westminster from previous years

14th Annual Festival of Wreaths Begins November 30th at the Carroll Arts Center

For the 14th straight year, the Carroll County Arts Council will host its annual "Festival of Wreaths" from November 30th through December 4th at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street. The Festival, which has become one of Carroll County's best-attended holiday events, will again feature more than 220 uniquely decorated theme wreaths on display for the public through the five-day silent auction. All proceeds from this annual event benefit the Carroll County Arts Council. The wreaths will range from elegantly traditional to radically whimsical. The public is invited to vote for their favorites through December 3rd and awards in several categories will be announced on December 4th. The wreaths themselves are crafted from materials as diverse as copper tubing, thumb tacks, eyeglasses, stained glass, used auto parts, rope, cell phones, and, of course, duct tape. Need a break from gazing at all the wonderful wreaths? Then catch one of the free classic holiday films that the Arts Council will be showing in the theater during The Festival of Wreaths. Seating is on a "first come, first served" basis for the films. Concessions will be available for sale. Festival Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Bidding ends promptly at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4th. The highest bidders are not required to be present at the close of the auction. Admission to the Festival is free. For more information on The Festival of Wreaths or the classic holiday films, call the Carroll County Arts Council at (410) 848-7272.



Examples of the types of wreaths displayed at previous Festival of Wreaths

Carroll County Arts Council Presents *A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas* on December 2nd & 3rd at the Arts Center

What do you get when you pair the beloved animated holiday film "*Charlie Brown's Christmas*" with a live performance of the film's Vince Guaraldi jazz score? You get a fabulously festive show featuring Charlie Brown and the gang, along with the renowned Eric Byrd Trio! This annual production is very popular with both families and discriminating jazz aficionados and is a great way to celebrate the holiday season. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 2nd, and 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 3rd. Before or after the show, you'll also be able to enjoy the Carroll County Arts Council's Festival of Wreaths. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for Arts Council members, students 18 years & under and seniors 60 years & over. For more information or to reserve tickets in advance, call (410) 848-7272.



Charlie Brown & the gang team up with the Eric Byrd Trio for *A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas* at the Carroll Arts Center



Santa Claus greets folks in the snow and chats with friends at his house in Locust Lane Park on Saturdays in December

Santa Claus Calls Locust Lane Park Home on Saturday Afternoons in December

Santa Claus will once again make Locust Lane Park in Downtown Westminster his home away from home on Saturdays during the December holiday shopping season. He is looking forward to seeing his many local friends at his house on Locust Lane, across East Main Street from the library, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. on December 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th. Santa will be receiving a special treat on December 17th when the 5th Grade band and orchestra from Westminster Elementary School will perform for him and everyone else on Main Street at noon. As always, parents are invited take their own photographs of their youngsters with Santa, but please don't forget to check the batteries, film or digital media card before you leave the house.

Make a Keepsake Ornament at the Westminster Branch Library on December 5th

Adults bring 10 to 20 pictures of your family and friends and use them to create a beautiful photo ball ornament at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library, 50 East Main Street, on Monday, December 5th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Enjoy some warm gingerbread and a cup of hot cocoa too! It will be great fun for friends to do together, so bring your friends along! Registration for this program begins November 21st. You may register by going online at http://library.carr.org/programs_news/programs.asp, calling (410) 386-4488, or visiting any of the branch libraries during their operating hours.

Attend "Couponing 102" at the Westminster Branch Library on December 6th

Join Carroll County residents Karen and Ashley at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library, 50 East Main Street, on Tuesday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m., as they show you how to use coupons to "the max." They'll go over store ads and coupon policies, discuss ad matching to get the maximum amount of savings, how to receive coupons and free samples in the mail, and much more. They will also show you how to set up a coupon binder to organize everything.

Gerstell Academy Students to Lead Holiday Sing-a-Long at the Westminster Branch Library on December 7th

The Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library is pleased to announce that children from Finksburg's Gerstell Academy will visit the library and sing for them on Wednesday, December 7th, at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Jenna Daly, The Lower School music teacher at Gerstell Academy, will lead the children in song in preparation for the holidays. Children age 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

Gallery of Gifts to Fill the Tevis Gallery During the Holidays - December 8th Through January 12th

The Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, will continue their annual tradition of transforming the Tevis Gallery into the "Gallery of Gifts" during the holiday shopping season. This special cash and carry exhibit will resemble a craft market rather than a traditional gallery exhibit, as more than 27 artists will display their festive wares in a boutique-style setting. The show will feature the same level of artistic quality that Arts Center visitors have come to expect. There will be a wide variety of hand-crafted creations from inexpensive stocking stuffers to truly elegant special gifts. Local artists combine with regional artists for a distinct flavor of fashion, fantasy and whimsy. To lessen the holiday stress, there will be complimentary gift bagging for all purchases! The "Gallery of Gifts" will be open from Thursday, December 8th to Saturday, January 12th. Gallery hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday. The gallery also will be open during evening events at the Arts Center. To kick off the shopping frenzy, the Arts Center will be offering a 10% discount on purchases made on the opening day of the gallery, Thursday, December 8th.

Maryland Ensemble Theatre Presents "A Christmas Carol" at the Carroll Arts Center December 9th & 10th

The holiday classic "A Christmas Carol" is back by popular demand at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on December 9th & 10th. This is the timeless story of grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge who thinks Christmas is a "humbug." When the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future call on Christmas Eve, Mr. Scrooge starts to see his life in a different light. This clever and heartwarming adaptation is presented by the acclaimed Maryland Ensemble Theatre. The whole family will enjoy this beautifully staged production celebrating the true spirit of Christmas. Performances will be at 8:00 p.m. on both December 9th and 10th, along with a 3:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, December 10th. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for Arts Council members, students 18 years & under and seniors 60 years & over.

Beyond the House . . . Before the Barn is the Subject of the December 13th Box Lunch Talk

While farmhouses and barns were the most noticeable buildings on local farms, it took an assortment of structures to keep a farm functioning. Join Architect Peter Pearre as he takes a look at the buildings - large and small - found in Carroll County's farmyards at the Box Lunch Talk on Tuesday, December 13th. Presented by the Historical Society of Carroll County (HSCC), the Box Lunch Talks are a monthly lecture series on topics relating to local history. The talks are held the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at Carroll Post #31 of the American Legion at the corner of East Green and Sycamore Streets. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided for all. Admission is \$1.00 for Historical Society members and a \$4.00 donation is requested from non-members.

Walt Michael & Company Returns to the Carroll Arts Center for Their Annual Holiday Concert

Common Ground on the Hill Founder and Executive Director Walt Michael wants you to catch the spirit of the season at the 12th Annual Walt Michael & Co. Holiday Concert, featuring top-drawer traditional acoustic music, at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, on December 17th, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Half a century ago, people in the mountains of the North Carolina and Southwest Virginia celebrated Christmas quite differently than the way most of us do now. They held two weeks of informal house parties that were filled with old time fiddle music, song and dance - a tradition they called "Breaking Up Christmas." These Christmas parties ran through and ended with Old Christmas, January 6th. Walt Michael & Company will "break up Christmas" with you on December 17th as they share their wide-ranging repertoire of tunes and songs that reflect the rich musical heritage of the Appalachians. Welcome to an evening of old time music. Let the season begin! Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for students with ID, teens and seniors 65 years & over. For tickets or more information, call Common Ground on the Hill at (410) 857-2771.

Celebrate National Card Playing Day at the Westminster Branch Library on December 28th

Celebrate National Card Playing Day in style at the Westminster Branch of the Carroll County Public Library, 50 East Main Street, on Wednesday, December 28th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Not only will the librarians play some classic card games, but they'll also show you some card tricks and even build a tower of cards! Children age 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult caregiver.

5-4-3-2 The New Year! Come Downtown on December 31st and Bring in the New Year!!!

Tired of sitting at home watching the ball drop in Times Square? Well, come down to the 1st block of West Main Street in Downtown Westminster at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 31st, and be part of what will hopefully become an annual tradition. Celebrate the ringing in and countdown to the New Year Westminster-style! There will be a DJ spinning tunes and an announcer to help on the countdown. See what Westminster will drop to bring in the New Year, as right now it is a secret.

Downtown Business Happenings:

Great Things to Check Out in Downtown

- Join **Aquino & Wolpoff Financial Group**, 63 East Main Street - Suite 102, at **Rafael's**, 32 West Main Street, on Wednesday, November 16th, for a "live" broadcast of the Carroll County Buzz! Steve Aquino and Charlie Wolpoff will be hosting a Cold Weather Drive and 50/50 raffle to benefit the Human Services Program of Carroll County. They will be asking for the following items: instant coffee, sugar, non-perishable creamer, paper towels, tissues, napkins and new or gently used blankets & towels. For each item donated, you will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a **Rafael's** gift card! So, help the community! Drop by **Rafael's**, listen to the Buzz and enjoy Happy Hour food and drink specials on November 16th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. while doing your part to help the less fortunate. Steve and Charlie hope to see you there.
- **Ballard-Bunting Boutique**, 77 East Main Street - Rear Entrance, will be having a Christmas Open House at the shop on Sunday, December 18th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Clementine's Country Boutique**, 18 John Street, will be holding its Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 5th and Sunday, November 6th. Open House hours will be 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. **Clementine's** will have a "Preview Party" on Friday, November 4th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Coffey Music** at 31 East Main Street is once again hosting open Bluegrass Jams on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Whether you're a picker, grinner or listener, you are welcome to join them. The jam starts at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on their showroom floor.
- **Eclecticity...Arts, Books, Music & More**, 13 John Street, will hold classes on "How to Create a Handmade Book" on Saturday, November 5th and Saturday, November 12th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Learn simple marbledizing and how to create your own hand-sewn journal. The cost is \$30 a person. Call (240) 409-4863 or stop by the shop for registration, details and supply lists.
- **Gotham Comics**, 15 East Main Street, will be holding its Annual Thanksgiving Day Storewide Sale on November 25th & 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Everything in the store will be on sale from 10% to 50% off. This is Gotham Comics' last sale before Christmas, as well as its only annual storewide sale.
- **The Hickory Stick** at 28 Liberty Street will be holding its Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 5th and Sunday, November 6th, with the event hours being 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Olde Liberty Shop** at 39 Liberty Street will be holding its Holiday Open House from Friday, November 4th through Sunday, November 6th. Open House hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday; 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Off Track Arts**, 11 Liberty Street - Side Entrance, **Eclecticity...Arts, Books, Music & More**, 13 John Street, **Abel/DeLuca Studio**, 180 West Main Street, and **Gizmos Art**, 1 New Windsor Road, will be part of the 5th Annual Carroll County Artists' Studio Tour on Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th. Local artists will display their works at twelve locations throughout Carroll County from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. Take this unique opportunity to speak personally with the artists, and view demonstrations. There will be light refreshments at various locations. The tour is family-friendly, self-guided, and, best of all, it's free! For more information on the studio tour and the participating artists, visit www.ccartists.com.
- **Papa Joe's Mexican Restaurant**, 27 East Main Street (Rear), and **The Pottery Loft**, 25 East Main Street, have teamed up to provide a savings offer to you. Through January 31, 2012, for every \$50.00 spent at **Papa Joe's**, save \$10.00 at **The Pottery Loft**. Inquire at either location to find out how to save!
- **Sidetracked**, 10 East Main Street, will be open on Black Friday, November 25th, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., offering 20% to 50% off selected merchandise. Also, **Sidetracked** will have its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 3rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with more special offers and light refreshments.
- **Birdie's Café** at 233 East Main Street has the following performances presently slated for November and December: November 4th - *Rupert Wates* from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; November 5th - *Lisa Cerbone* from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; November 12th - *Tony Mecca* from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; November 18th - *Jesse & Jeremy* from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; November 25th - *Jesse & Jeremy* from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; December 2nd - *Jesse & Jeremy* from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; December 16th - *Jesse & Jeremy* from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and December 17th - *Monte Leister* will perform from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On November 4th, there will be an Opening Reception for Gail Elwell's Art Exhibition entitled "52 Weeks" from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Are you interested in displaying your talent? **Birdie's Café** also hosts Open Mic Nights on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. You must sign-up by 7:00 p.m. to perform that evening. Finally, don't forget **Birdie's** monthly poetry series, The Corner of Poetry and Main, on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. David Beaudoin and Jenny Keith are the featured poets for November.
- Don't miss a great evening of food and music Louisiana-style at **Giulianova Groceria & Italian Deli**, 11 East Main Street, on Saturday, November 12th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Chef Billy Schroeder will prepare an authentic Louisiana Shrimp Boil while fabulous musician and all-around "cool cat" *Kelly Bell* will perform an evening of acoustic music. Also appearing will be two great local musicians - *Ben Sherman* and *Richard Tipton*. This event is reserved seating only. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the music beginning at 7:00 p.m. To get your ticket for this great evening, call Billy at (410) 876-7425, as tickets are going fast! On Saturday, December 17th, **Giulianova Groceria & Italian Deli** will host an Open House from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Drop by for some egg nog and Italian pastries & cookies while enjoying the seasonal sounds of *Trouble with Harry*.
- **Johansson's Dining House** at 4 West Main Street will have live music on Friday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. during November and December. The current performance schedule is as follows: November 4th - *Skyla Burrell*; November 11th - *Altered Mike*; November 18th - *Triple Shot*; November 25th - *D.A.M. Trio (Jeff Debonis)*; December 2nd - *Devils in the Details*; December 9th - *Finnegans Woo*; December 16th - *Skyla Burrell*; and December 23rd - *One Too Many*.
- **Maggie's Restaurant**, 310 East Green Street, has live music on Saturdays in November from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. September's performance schedule is: November 5th - *Levee Sheiks*; November 12th - *Chain Link*; November 19th - *Rich & Famous* and November 26th - *Greg Gotleib*. *Gravy* will be performing from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on November 23rd, Thanksgiving Eve, at Maggie's. As the performance schedule is not yet in place for the month of December, check out Maggie's website - <http://www.maggieswestminster.com/> for performers as December draws near. Maggie's will be hosting a Bourbon Dinner featuring Maker's Mark Ambassador on Wednesday, November 16th, starting at 7:00 p.m. The all-inclusive price of the dinner is

\$60.00 per person. Also, check out **Maggie's** \$5.00 Pub Grub Menu that is available nightly from 9:30 p.m. to Kitchen close, except for Sundays when it starts at 8:30 p.m. Finally, **Maggie's** will be open on Thanksgiving and Christmas Night from 7:00 p.m. to midnight.

- **O'Lordan's Irish Pub** at 14 Liberty Street will have live music on Saturday nights from 9:00 p.m. to Midnight during November and December. The performance schedule is: November 5th - *Mike D'addario*; November 12th - *Gary Brown*; November 19th - *Ben & Elena*; November 26th - *Moe Strings*; December 3rd - *NUA*; December 10th - *One Third Wish*; and December 17th - *Ken & Wayne*. Also, traditional Irish music sessions are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The sessions are open to all levels and to all traditional Irish and Celtic musicians and listeners. Check out **O'Lordan's** menu at <http://www.olordansirishpub.com> and don't forget their Sunday breakfasts.
- **Rafael's** current live music schedule for November and December is: November 11th - *Ben Sherman*; November 12th - *Greg Gotleib*; November 18th - *Rich Fehle*; November 19th - *Will Hill*; November 25th - *Steve May*; December 3rd - *Chain Links*; December 10th - *Steve May*; December 17th - *Ben Sherman*; and December 23rd - *Rich Fehle*. Performances run from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. On Wednesdays, except for November 23rd, **Rafael's** has Karaoke by Jon Ardisone from 9:00 p.m. to midnight while DJ Chris McDonald spins tunes from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Thursdays, except for Thanksgiving week when Chris will be spinning the tunes on Wednesday evening, November 23rd. To find out what else is happening, call (410) 840-1919 or visit **Rafael's** website at <http://rafaelsrestaurant.com/vcalendar/>.

New Faces or Different Places

- **CUP Tea Bar & Café**, a contemporary tea room and café, is now open at 7 East Main Street offering delicious food with a gourmet spin. They also offer a kids menu of either a scrumdiddlyumptious PBJ or an ooey-gooey grilled cheese! Kick back and relax at lunch with live local acoustic entertainment on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **CUP** is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. Did I mention that **CUP Tea Bar & Café** has free WiFi?
- **J Café** at 172 East Main Street is now serving delicious breakfasts and lunches with table service. Take-out service is also available. **J Café** is open Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday. P.S. their cupcakes are wicked good!
- **Carroll Street Décor**, a division of Perry, Inc., has a new showroom at 12 Carroll Street offering custom draperies, upholstery, wall coverings and more.

Coming Soon...

- **HotsLooks Hair Design** will soon be relocating to 178 East Main Street from their venue in the 140 Village Shopping Center.
- **Razzmatazz Salon**, formerly Studio 11 in the Carroll Plaza Shopping Center, will be calling 263 East Main Street home in the very near future.

Anniversaries

- Congratulations to **Bladerunner Hair, Nail & Skin** for celebrating their 22nd Anniversary in business this year. **Bladerunner** is located at 104 East Main Street.
- Tina Warehime at **Esquire and the Lady Salon**, 83 West Main Street, will be celebrating her 12th year in business in December.

Extended Holiday Shopping Hours Announced

The following businesses are extending their hours during the holiday season, as noted below. Their hours on days not listed will remain the same as usual.

- Between December 1st and December 23rd, **ArtWorks and Apparel Boutique**, 29 East Main Street, will stay open until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be open noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. They will be open 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on December 24th.
- **Eclecticity...Arts, Books, Music & More**, 13 John Street, will be open on Sundays in December prior to Christmas, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Gotham Comics**, 15 East Main Street, will have extended Saturday hours on December 3rd, 10th & 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., along with the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve for last-minute shoppers.
- **The Hickory Stick**, 28 Liberty Street, will stay open until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning November 25th.
- **The Main Arterie**, 51 East Main Street, will stay open until 8:00 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, between December 1st and December 23rd.
- **The Olde Liberty Shop**, 39 Liberty Street, will stay open until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning November 25th.
- **Pomeroy Jewelers**, 41 East Main Street, between December 3rd and December 23rd, will stay open until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be open noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. They will be open 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on December 24th.
- **Giulianova Groceria & Italian Deli**, 11 East Main Street, will have extended hours starting December 19th for the last minute shoppers and chefs. **Giulianova's** extended hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on December 19th through 21st and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on December 22nd & 23rd. **Giulianova** will be open 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on December 24th.
- **Sidetracked**, 10 East Main Street, will be open Sundays from Thanksgiving Weekend until December 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you have a business happening you want to share with the Westminster Main Street Community, please feel free to email Stan Ruchlewicz at sruchlewicz@westgov.com with the information for inclusion in a future issue.

HAVE A SAFE & SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!