



Department of Planning

2020 Winter Edition

225 North Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157



Special Interest Articles:

- 2020 Spring Amendment
- 2020 Census
- Welcome New Employees
- A Tribute to Bobbi Moser

Director:
Lynda Eisenberg

Planning Manager:
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Comprehensive Planners:
Bobbi Moser
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Carroll County Water & Sewer Master Plan

By: Price Wagoner, Comprehensive Planner

Carroll County does not have a central regulating authority that provides water and sewer service. However, there are a number of municipal systems and several County-owned community water and/or sewer systems. The Water and Sewer Master Plan encompasses all of Carroll County, including the County's eight incorporated towns and cities. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has regulatory authority over the systems described in the plan. The Water and Sewer Master Plan is an implementing tool of the Carroll County Master Plan. The plan takes into account the policies and visions of the county and municipalities when deciding the areas that will be served with water

and sewer. However, the plan does not guarantee that the County or any municipality will provide services.

The department is in the process of working on a 2020 Spring Amendment to the 2019 Water and Sewer Master Plan. The Annotated Code of Maryland requires the County to review and adopt a Water and Sewer Master Plan every three years; the current Master Plan was adopted in 2019. Amendments to the plan may occur between the Triennial updates; these typically occur twice a year as a spring and/or fall amendment.

The Department's timeline to submit the 2020 Spring Amendment to MDE for review and final approval, is the first half of April 2020. This amendment consists of changes to the City of Westminster Water and Sewer Chapters; the Freedom Water and Sewer Service Area maps (12 & 21); the Taneytown Water and Sewer Service Area maps (18 & 27) and the Hampstead Sewer Service Area map (13).



Its Census Time



With less than 55 days left, the 2020 Decennial Census is upon us and Carroll County is leading the way in Census related activities. With all the flurry of the Census around the County and Country there are opportunities for mischief. Below are some easy tips to avoid frauds and scams.

Avoiding Scams Online

Phishing is a criminal act in which someone tries to get your information by pretending to be an entity that you trust. Phishing emails often direct you to a website that looks real but is fake—and may be infected with malware.

It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.
- Money or donations.

In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

Staying Safe at Home

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

- First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date.
- If you still have questions about their identity, you can call [800-923-8282](tel:800-923-8282) to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.



Reporting Suspected Fraud

- Call the Carroll County Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Illegal Activity Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 410-386-5030. **Note:** Callers can

remain **Anonymous OR** email fraud@carrollcountymd.gov. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

Also please check out the County's Census webpage and the "Our Story" link. Here you find real stories, from real county residents about how federal funding helps them in their daily lives with programs County government and our partners provide.



The ARC of Carroll County

Welcome Hannah Weber, Planning Technician



I am a recent graduate from Shippensburg University, PA (May 2019). I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science. While in school, I took planning courses as well as cartography, hydrology, GIS, sustainability, and soils. My courses in college help me develop an interest in natural resources and sustainability. Over the summer of 2018, I was an intern at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Franklin County Conservation District (FCCD) under the Department of Agriculture. My internship was an amazing opportunity to cultivate what I was learning in my courses as well as expand on it through field work and real-life examples.

I worked throughout high school and college at a title company, where I became extremely familiar with the Maryland county courts, regulations, and legislation. I already have seen many connections from my previous experiences while working for the Carroll County Planning Department. Carroll County government has given me an amazing opportunity to work and contribute to the planning department. I am excited to continue to learn and grow within my position and this department!

Barbara “Bobbi” Moser, Comprehensive Planner- Thanks for the Memories!



We want to dedicate this section to Barbara Moser, affectionally referred as Bobbi. Bobbi is a 40 plus year planning professional and Carroll County employee. Born in Washington D.C. and raised in Arlington, Virginia. She also spent a lot of time on her family’s farm just outside of Charlottesville, Virginia. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and has a Masters’ degree in planning from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Before coming to Carroll County in 1977, she worked for the federal government in an agency known as the Economic Development Administration. Bobbi’s County planning career has spanned 10 boards of County Commissioners, 10 planning directors and countless staff and office changes over the years. Bobbi is the consummate professional and the most knowledgeable planner in the County. Bobbi is a true inspiration, here are a few memories:

“Bobbi taught me that we were doing more than just planning in the 10 years we worked together. We were building important relationships with citizens, municipalities and our co-workers in addition to creating a better place for the next generation. She is a Carroll County Government gem and her knowledge, daily contributions and sweet smile will be missed Countywide. Thank you for everything Bobbi! - Andrea Gerhard”

*“Bobbi’s extensive planning knowledge guided me through the first four years of my career. I am fortunate to have worked beside her.
– Clare Stewart”*

“Her willingness to help you with any question or issue you may have, even if it didn’t fall within her areas of expertise. But most of all, her undying devotion to this County and its citizens. – Scott Graf”

“There aren’t many planning decisions made in the County without Bobbi’s input. I value her opinion and expertise. I will miss bouncing ideas off of her and our afternoon planning discussions. – Lynda Eisenberg”

Fond Memories from 42 Years in the Carroll County Department of Planning

by Bobbi Moser

As I approach retirement from Carroll County Government, my mind can wander to the time in December 1977 when I came to the County from Arlington, Virginia, to start a job as a comprehensive planner with the Carroll County Department of Planning.

I was so young then! My hair was brown, my eyes could read the smallest print on the property tax maps, and I could hear a phone ring from the far side of the office. Unfortunately, my almost nonexistent sense of smell was as bad then as it is now, and my poor sense of direction (thanks, mom!) will never improve.

Ned (Edmund R.) Cueman was director of the planning department, only the second planning director since the County created the department and the Carroll County Planning and Zoning Commission in 1959; George A. Grier was the first. When I arrived, the department also two assistant directors, Ron Bailey and Jim Norvell.

At that time, the Department of Planning covered a lot of territory - in addition to planning, the office included development review, permits & inspections, zoning administration, zoning appeals administration, and rec & parks. In addition, the department and planning commission had its own dedicated private-practice attorney, John Murphy.

Back then, the Board of Carroll County Commissioners was comprised of three at-large members. In 1977, the Commissioners were J. Norman Graham, Roger L. Mann, and John B. Joy. Of all the Boards that have come and gone over the last four decades, I believe this Board accomplished some of the County's most important planning-related milestones. On December 14, 1977, I witnessed the Board's vote to adopt the *Comprehensive "Mini" Plan – Freedom and Environs* and associated comprehensive rezoning. This was the first full-fledged comprehensive plan that was done for the first of the nine designated growth areas in the County; it also set the stage for the remaining eight area comprehensive plans that were developed and adopted in subsequent years. I was also present when the Board adopted the Agricultural Comprehensive Rezoning on April 26, 1978. With the zoning code and zoning map changes that came with this adoption, the County took a momentous step in preserving farmland and agribusiness throughout the County.

Talk about changes in technology since 1977! When I started in the late stages of the second millennium, our equipment and methods were manual, analog, and simply primeval by today's standards.



Computers? What computers? The COB had the mainframe in the basement for payroll and whatnot. If you needed a document prepared in final form, you either wrote it out in longhand or dictated it into an ancient device and gave it to one of the secretaries in the office who would type it up on an electronic typewriter. If a mistake was made in typing – whiteout to the rescue.

It wasn't until the 1980's (I think) before the planning office received a fairly rudimentary personal computer that was shared among all the comprehensive planners (WordStar or Lotus 1-2-3, anyone?). I wonder where all the 5¼-inch floppy (that were actually floppy) disks went? Fortunately, the County soon graduated to Borland's (now Corel) WordPerfect and Quattro, but eventually switched to Microsoft Word and Excel. As for me, I still miss WordPerfect for word processing.

Office telephones were a scream. Pushbutton phones with four large white buttons and a large red button (the HOLD button) in a row at the bottom of the telephone. One of the white buttons would be lit when someone in the office was on that line. If all four buttons were lit up, you had to wait for someone to get off the phone to make a call (and you'd better push the unlit button before someone else got to it before you did). No problem – it gave me more time to write out in longhand the report I was working on.

Need to calculate the area for a defined geographic space? Simple. Pull out the clear acetate sheet with the dot grid and place it over the map. Count the number of dots located within the defined area and calculate the area based on the map's scale. Precise? Not so much. And it was time consuming. In the early-to-mid 1980's, we graduated to the coolest new technology – the planimeter! A digital handheld gizmo that you placed on the map and carefully traced the outline of the area with the tracing point. Punch in the map scale and it would calculate the area for you. A minor miracle compared to the dot grid. Heaven only knows were that planimeter is today.

Back in the day, the zoning maps and comprehensive plan/master plan maps used zipatone to represent the zoning classifications and future land-use designations. Instead of colors, the adhesive plastic came in different patterns, each pattern representing a zoning district and corresponding land-use designation. With an X-acto knife, a draftsman would carefully cut out a piece of zipatone to a specific size and shape and stick it on the appropriate property printed on the mylar map. Very tedious work, and it was really annoying when the zipatone would shift on the mylar map – thereby implying that that the zoning or land-use designation had moved. Around the time I arrived, the comprehensive plans were done in zipatone during the development and approval process but were then printed in color by an outside company once the plan was officially adopted.



While much has changed in the planning office in 42 years, one thing has remained constant. My fellow coworkers have been the most dedicated, cooperative, enthusiastic, gracious, and courteous group of professionals I have ever had the pleasure to work with. They have been a major reason I have enjoyed my job so much all these years.

I wonder what changes the planning office will experience in the next 40-plus years!

