



Department of Planning

2019 Summer Edition

225 North Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157



Special Interest Articles:

- Comprehensive Rezoning
- 2019 Spring Amendment
- 2020 Census
- 2019 Bike Ped & Sustainable Communities
- Welcome New Employees

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Comprehensive Rezoning

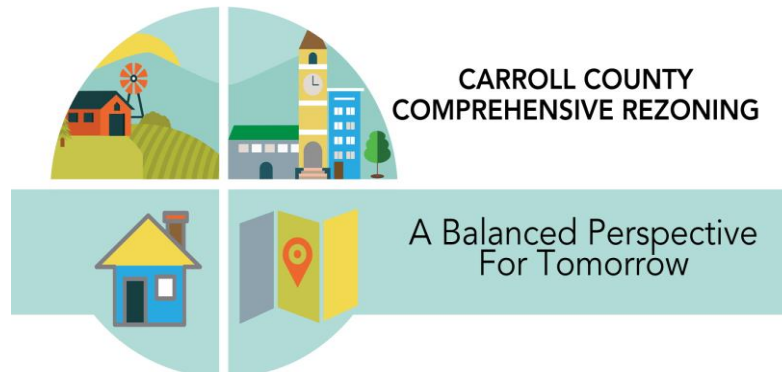
By: Mary Lane, Planning Manager

The Department of Planning continues to make progress with the County's Comprehensive Rezoning initiative. This effort involves reviewing and updating Chapter 158, the Zoning Code, to ensure that the code is more modern, user-friendly, and aligns with the community's vision for the future. The initial phase of Zoning Code modifications has been to the Commercial, Industrial and Employment Campus Zoning Districts. Following a county-wide mailing to

over 49,000 households, work sessions held with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and two public information sessions earlier this year, the BCC has once again begun deliberating on the specific Code changes to the commercial and industrial zoning districts. The interagency Concept Team and residential focus group, comprised of interested citizens throughout the County, have begun their work on updating the residential zoning categories.

Citizens are encouraged to continue to stay informed and provide input throughout the process. The primary source for information is the website:

www.carrollrezoning.org.



Quality of Life Economic Development Preservation

Triennial Update to the Carroll County Water and 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 measure 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 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 2014. Amendments to the master plan may occur between the Triennial updates; these typically occur twice a year as a spring and/or fall amendment.

The Department of Planning processed and submitted the Triennial Update of the Carroll County Water and Sewer Master Plan, to MDE for review and final approval, in April. This update

consists of changes made to the 2014 Master Plan, through the Amendment cycle. The Triennial update includes revisions of all Chapters, including the eight Municipal and one County maintained water and sewer systems.

Carroll County's Water & Sewer Master Plan is broken into four chapters.

Countrywide Planning Context:

This update addresses the general population and geographic characteristics of Carroll County.

Water and Sewer Planning in

General: This update addresses the purpose and goals of water and sewer planning in Carroll County including: water and sewer related policies, severability, and water and sewer amendment procedures. In addition, the organization and management of the public community water and sewer systems is described, detailing the responsibilities of the municipalities and various of County departments involved in oversight and operation of the systems.

Triennial Water Chapter Update:

The Water Supply Facilities Section describes groundwater and surface water conditions and existing and proposed water facilities by service area. For each water facility, there is a description of the current conditions, an analysis of needs, and recommendations for future



system improvements. A section on regional water facilities addresses current and potential reservoir sites designed to meet water needs outside of municipalities. This update also revised the Projected Water Supply Demands and Projected Capacity table (15) and the Water Service Area maps.

Triennial Sewer Chapters

Update: The Sewer Facilities Section describes sewage disposal conditions and restrictions in the county. It also describes the existing and proposed public sewer facilities by service area. For each sewer facility, there is a description of the current conditions, an analysis of needs, and recommendations for future system improvements.

All municipal Planning and Zoning Commissions, and the Carroll County Planning and Zoning Commission certified consistency of their respective water and sewer chapters with their Master and/or Comprehensive plans.

The Board of County Commissioners conducted a duly advertised public hearing regarding the Triennial Update on February 7, 2019. Following the public hearing and subsequent deliberations by the Board, the Triennial Update to the Water and Sewer Master Plan was adopted, as proposed, on February 21, 2019. This update also revised the Sewer Service Area maps and revised the Projected Sewer Supply Demands and Projected Capacity Table (32).

Census Outreach Activities in Carroll County

By: Lynda Eisenberg, Director

Census outreach activities are well underway in Carroll County. On June 10, 2019 Commissioner Wantz announced the County's Complete Count Committee (CCC) for the 2020 Census. The Complete Count Committee is a volunteer committee established by the county to increase awareness and motivate residents to respond to the 2020 Census. CCCs serve as a county's "census ambassador" and play an integral part in ensuring a complete and accurate count of the community. Success of the census depends on community involvement at every level. The U.S. Census Bureau cannot conduct the 2020 Census alone and success cannot be achieved without local involvement from Carroll County's respected leaders.

The county was awarded a \$40,000 state grant to help with marketing and outreach. Efforts in Carroll County began on July 1, 2019 and will continue until the Census count is concluded in June 2020. County outreach efforts will include: part-time contractual staff dedicated to the 2020 Census; internet kiosks with iPads located at town offices, clinics and shelters to reach those without access to technology; volunteer and staff training; advertising, giveaways, materials and staffing for events. Emphasis will be placed on reaching historically hard-to-count areas and populations.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a count of every person living in the United States every 10 years, mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. The data collected by the decennial census determines the number of seats Maryland has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to its local communities.

- It's Important
- It's Easy
- It's Safe
- It's Right Around the Corner - April 1, 2020

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep all information confidential and use it only to produce statistics.

New to this Census is that it will mainly be conducted electronically, so by April 2020, households will receive an invitation to participate in the census. You'll then have three options to respond: online, by phone, or by mail. We'll mark Census Day on April 1, 2020, with events across the country. This is a key date for the 2020 count: When completing the census, you'll note where you are living on April 1.

Planning is proud to be a part of this important effort by supporting the County's CCC and state and federal officials to get the most accurate and complete county as possible. Stayed tuned for our Census related efforts on our website.



2019 Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan

By: Clare Stewart, Comprehensive Planner



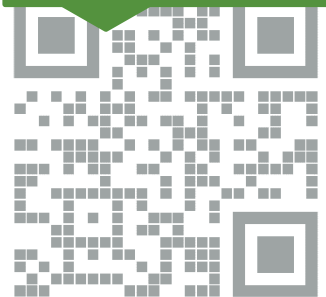
The Carroll County Planning & Zoning Commission is taking comments on the Accepted **2019 Bicycle-Pedestrian Master** County Planning staff will be available to respond to questions on the Accepted plan at several community information forums throughout the County. The dates, locations and times are:

- August 1, 2019, Mount Airy Public Library, 705 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy from 2-4pm and 5-7pm
- August 6, 2019, Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company, 1341 N Main Street, Hampstead from 6-9pm (part of Hampstead's National Night Out event)
- August 13, 2019, Westminster Public Library, 50 E Main Street, Westminster from 2-4pm and 5-6:45pm

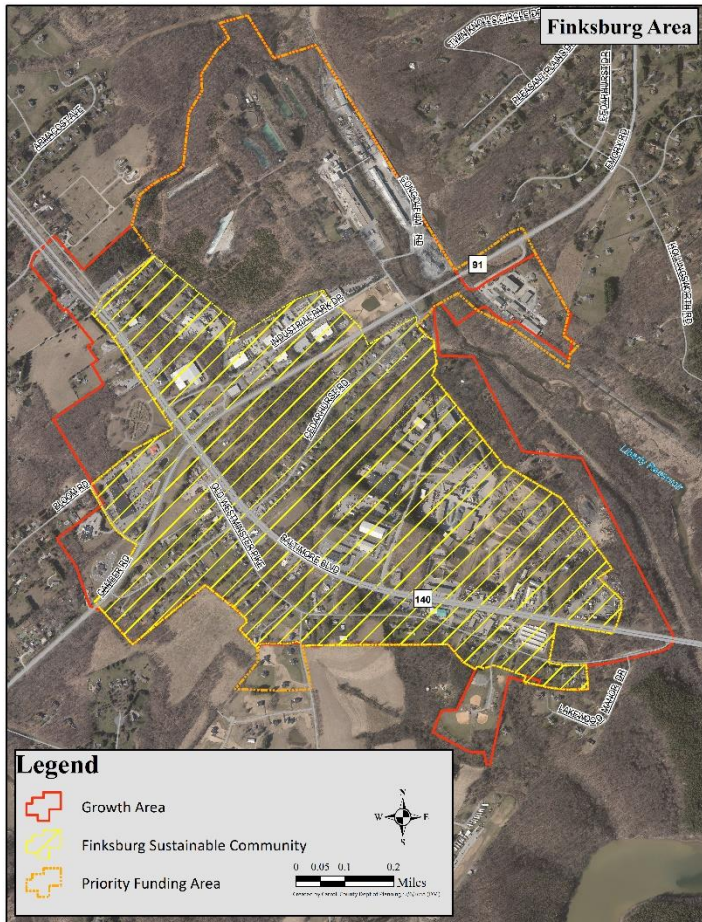
A **public hearing** on the Accepted plan will be hosted by the Carroll County Planning & Zoning Commission on September 17, 2019. **Both written and verbal comments will be received by the Planning Commission at the public hearing. Written comments also may be mailed or emailed to the address shown below but must be received before the public hearing.**

The plan is a draft and is subject to change based on comments received and the deliberations of the Planning Commission. The plan may be viewed online at CarrollBikePedPlan.org as well as at the Carroll County Department of Planning. Additional print copies and CDs of the Plan can be obtained from the Carroll County Department of Planning.

CarrollBikePedPlan.



Finksburg Sustainable Community Q&A



Q. What is Sustainable Communities?

A. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Sustainable Communities Program is a place-based designation offering a comprehensive package of resources that support holistic strategies for community development, revitalization, and sustainability. Sustainable Communities has provided local governments with a framework for promoting environmentally, economically and socially responsible growth and development in existing older communities.

The 2010 Sustainable Communities Act defines Sustainable Community Areas as places where public and private investments and partnerships achieve:

- Development of a healthy local economy;
- Protection and appreciation of historical and cultural resources;
- A mix of land uses;
- Affordable and sustainable housing, and employment options;
- Growth and development practices that protect the environment and conserve air, water and energy resources, encourage walkability and recreational opportunities, and where available, create access to transit.

Q. How can I benefit?

The Sustainable Community designation is a threshold requirement for application to certain state programs. Sustainable Communities have access to the interagency *Revitalization Toolbox* of financing programs and tax credit incentives.



Q. What's next?

A. Carroll County Planning in conjunction with the Finksburg Planning and Citizens' Council (FPACC) will be launching a Finksburg Sustainable Community brand and website in the coming months...be on the lookout!

Q. How can I find more information on this program?

A. For more information visit the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development website or contact County Planning Staff, Clare Stewart at P: (410) 386-5145 or E: cstewart@carrollcountymd.gov.

Welcome Kathleen Comber, GIS Technician



Kathleen Comber began work as a GIS Technician with the Carroll County Department of Planning on May 30th. Previously, she worked as a Senior Technical Support Staff with TEMS, Inc. (Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc.) where she provided GIS and technical support services to staff economists and engineers in demand forecasting and transportation planning related tasks for transportation studies conducted across the United States and Canada. Most recently, her work included providing GIS, mapping, and economic analysis work for the Chicago-to-Cleveland Hyperloop Feasibility Study where her company was one of several consultants conducting work for the project. Ms. Comber has more than 15 years' experience in providing a variety of GIS and technical support including creating and mapping geospatial data (i.e., transportation, demographic, environmental) and performing transportation, economic/demographic, and environmental data research and analysis.

Ms. Comber's educational background includes a degree in Computer Information Systems (A.S.) and training in using GIS applications (i.e., ArcGIS I) at Towson University's Center for GIS in 2005. In addition, she completed a Master of Science Degree in Special Education (1990) prior to returning to school and changing her career to the field of Computer Information Systems in 2000. Ms. Comber has an avid interest in GIS, mapping, informational research, computer technology, and working with people. Through her work as a GIS Technician with the Carroll County Department of Planning, she is eager to learn new skills in GIS and Planning and she welcomes new experiences. She believes that her broad skill sets, experiences, and interests will be a strong asset to her work with the Carroll County Department of Planning.

Welcome Cody Spaid, Comprehensive Planner



Cody Spaid is a recent graduate with a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Prior to joining the Carroll County Planning Department, he was a planning intern with the Community Planning and Development Services, City of Lenexa, KS. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Kansas and brings his experience as working as an Architect to the Department.

Mr. Spaid identifies himself as a planner motivated and interested in working towards planning and developing complete communities. He believes that smart use of resources is vital to achieving this and that planners can play a significant role in engaging and informing about the goals and objectives for their community.

The need to protect Carroll County's unique rural agricultural heritage and environmental resources interests him as a planner, and he looks forward to making a meaningful contribution in accomplishing this by working with the amazing planning team here in Carroll County.