

Board of County Commissioners

Dennis E. Frazier, President
Stephen A. Wantz, Vice President
C. Richard Weaver, Secretary
Doug Howard
Richard S. Rothschild



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Douglas W. Brown
410-386-2296

Warming Centers to Open

Westminster, December 28, 2017 – The National Weather Service is forecasting freezing temperatures and low wind chills for Carroll County from Thursday, December 28, 2017 through Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Due to the anticipated cold weather, Warming Centers will be available throughout Carroll County during this time period. Carroll County's Department of Citizen Services will operate six warming centers around the County, and Carroll County Public Library branches will also be open and available to anyone in need of a warm place. All residents who are vulnerable to extreme cold and who do not have sufficient heat in their homes are encouraged to seek warmth in any of the following locations until the close of business:

Warming centers are open during regular business hours at County Senior Centers and the Department of Citizen Services.

- Citizen Services Office Building, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster (8 am - 5 pm, Mon-Fri) (Closed 1/1)
- Mount Airy Senior & Community Center, 703 Ridge Ave., Mount Airy (8 am - 4:30 pm Mon-Fri) (Closed 1/1)
- North Carroll Senior & Community Center, 2328 Hanover Pike, Hampstead (8 am - 4:30 pm Mon-Fri) (Closed 1/1)
- South Carroll Senior & Community Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd., Eldersburg (8 am - 4:30 pm Mon-Fri) (Closed 1/1)
- Taneytown Senior & Community Center, 220 Roberts Mill Road, Taneytown (8 am - 4:30 pm Mon-Fri) (Closed 1/1)
- Westminster Senior and Community Center, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster (8 am - 4:30 pm Mon. - Fri)

All branches of the Carroll County Public Library System will also be open as warming centers during regular business hours, Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 8:45 PM; Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; and Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 PM.

- Eldersburg Branch, 6400 Hemlock Drive, Eldersburg (Closed 12/31 & 1/1)
- Finksburg Branch, 2265 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg (Closed 12/31 & 1/1)
- Mt. Airy Branch, 705 Ridge Avenue, Mt. Airy (Closed 12/31 & 1/1)
- North Carroll Branch, 2255 Hanover Pike, Hampstead (Closed 12/31 & 1/1)
- Taneytown Branch, 10 Grand Drive, Taneytown (Closed 12/31 & 1/1)
- Westminster Branch, 50 East Main Street, Westminster (Closed 12/31 & 1/1)

Carroll County Government facilities and all branches of the Carroll County Public Library will be closed on Sunday, December 31 and Monday, January 1. On these days, in cooperation with Human Services Programs of Carroll County, a warming center location will be open at the Westminster Senior and Community Center, 125 Stoner Avenue, Westminster from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

Additional options for keeping warm are available during the day:

- [On Our Own](http://www.onourownofcarrollcounty.org/) (410-751-6600) provides a community center at 265 East Main Street, Westminster. Hours vary and are available at <http://www.onourownofcarrollcounty.org/>.
- Stores, malls, restaurants
- Churches
- Neighbor's home

For after-hours cold shelter needs: [Human Services Programs \(HSP\) of Carroll County, Inc.](http://www.human-services.org/) operates a Cold Weather Shelter at 127 Stoner Avenue, Westminster overnight from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM during the cold weather season. Information about the Cold Weather Shelter can be obtained by calling 410-857-8473. In times when overflow space is needed, HSP has partnered with the Westminster Rescue Mission to provide transportation to a limited number of alternative overnight accommodations.

Board of County Commissioners

Dennis E. Frazier, President
Stephen A. Wantz, Vice President
C. Richard Weaver, Secretary
Doug Howard
Richard S. Rothschild



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

The Carroll County Department of Public Safety - Emergency Management encourages people to follow these safety tips when temperatures are extremely cold:

- Minimize outside activities, particularly among the elderly and very young. Check on family members and neighbors who may be more vulnerable to the cold.
- Pets are also sensitive to the cold; remember to consider your pets' needs when planning outside activities.
- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing rather than a single layer of heavy clothing. Wear a hat and mittens/gloves to stay warmer.
- Be aware of frostbite. If a part of the body loses feeling and the skin feels waxy or looks white or grey, warm gently and seek medical help.
- Watch out for hypothermia. Shivering, memory loss, confusion, slurred speech, and drowsiness are all warning signs. Seek medical attention for signs of hypothermia.
- Use caution when heating your home. For tips on how to safely use space heaters, fireplaces, woodstoves and refer to the U.S. Fire Administration's [home heating safety handout](#).
- If using a space heater, be aware of the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning. For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#).

For more information on local cold weather resources, including energy assistance, visit the [Carroll County Health Department cold weather webpage](#) or check out the [Carroll County Health Department on Facebook](#).

###

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.