

Board of County Commissioners

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Dennis E. Frazier, *Vice President*
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 State of the County

Westminster, Tuesday, January 10, 2017 – Today, in the annual State of the County event, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners delivered their individual assessments on the state of Carroll County.

Each Commissioner addressed the audience with highlights of important successes from the past year and challenges that are facing the county today. Generally, the Commissioners focused on how they will work together and want to strategically plan to uphold the rural landscape, quality of life, American values, education and public safety of the county by supporting economic development, fiscal responsibility, minimized tax burden and constitutional rights. The overall theme of this morning was praising Carroll County as a great county and forecasting a positive 2017.

Commissioner Steve Wantz, District 1, discussed the importance of his cornerstone three E's – Education; Economic Growth and Development; and Emergency Services and Public Safety, which he believes are vital to the county. The Commissioner praised the budget process that ensured adequate funding for schools in FY17. He is committed to working with the Carroll County Board of Education, state legislators and the governor to find reasonable solutions. The economic growth and development in the county had a very successful year with several ribbon cuttings for new business and more planned for 2017. Business growth is critical for revenue without increasing the citizen tax burden. Lastly, Commissioner Wantz stated that Emergency Services and Public Safety is his number one priority. Statistics were given to demonstrate the success of our systems and how the collaboration between our agencies is making a positive impact.

Commissioner Dennis Frazier, District 3, emphasized the importance of balancing progress with preserving our rural heritage. The Commissioner wants to sustain forward momentum while preserving the pieces of Carroll County that make it great. Carroll has many accolades including having the lowest crime rates and highest graduation rates. He is committed to balancing the preservation of Carroll's rural landscape with the need for growth and development. The county now has more than 70,000 acres protected in agriculture preservation and development is occurring around growth areas. Commissioner Frazier wants to keep future generations living in Carroll County and

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wants to increase the amount of affordable housing. The county wants to always preserve what makes it great, but also needs to grow. If the county is not growing, it will wither and die.

Commissioner Doug Howard, District 5, focused on how establishing, building and maintaining relationships will help achieve county objectives today and in the future. Reporting that the state of the county is very strong with many successes, the emphasis will now be on how to maintain this stability. The future of Carroll County will largely be determined by the strength, conviction, actions and leadership of this and future boards in making sure that the county is clearly driving to where it wants and needs to be in the future. The Long Term Advisory Group will be launching shortly and will play an important part in ensuring that Carroll is planning for challenges many years ahead. Commissioner Howard's goal for the county is to be the best educated, safest, innovative, rural, cooperative community without increasing the financial burden on our citizens or businesses. He stressed that Carroll County can position itself to take advantage of all available resources and enhance its opportunities by strengthening relationships within the county and around the state.

Commissioner Richard Weaver, District 2, concentrated his presentation on the many examples of effective communication, collaboration and partnerships which keep Carroll successful. Examples included the Combined Education Committee, partnerships with the Annapolis delegation, which led to more communication, and visits from state cabinet level secretaries. Another excellent example of successful teamwork is the collaboration between the Board of Commissioners, States Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department and the municipalities. Together they are combatting opioid addiction and crime in the county. Hampstead is an example with a 33% decrease in crime in 2016. Other partnerships highlighted were the non-profit organizations such as the Veteran's Council and the veteran's transportation program.

Commissioner Richard Rothschild, District 4, shared a poignant and thoughtful multi-media presentation with attendees, highlighting the many wonderful things to celebrate in Carroll County. The presentation, entitled "Grateful" was a pictorial arrangement of Carroll County images depicting why Commissioner Rothschild is grateful for living in Carroll County. The presentation listed a number of distinctions, including: Maryland's lowest crime rate; Maryland's highest graduation rate; Maryland's 3rd lowest unemployment rate; number one in Maryland for agricultural preservation with nearly 70,000 acres protected; and having four nationally recognized towns for quality of life. The Commissioner encouraged the audience to be proud of Carroll County and grateful for the reasons that make it great.

Watch the 2017 State of the County [here](#).

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