



UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

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Council Meeting

Jan 27, Feb 24 & Mar 23 – 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meeting

Jan 16, Feb 20 & Mar 19 - 6:30 p.m.

Council Work Session

Jan 13, Feb 10 & Mar 9 - 6:30 p.m.

Heritage Committee info, contact

Jim Rowe 410-775-9939 or

buttersburg@verizon.net

Web Page

www.carr.org/~unionbr

E-mail

unionbr@carr.org

ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL/MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

ARE DUE IN THE TOWN OFFICE BY
MARCH 15, 2020

OFFICE CLOSED

New Year's Day
January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20th

President's Day
February 17th

**Note: Daylight Savings Begins
on March 8th 2020**

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Where has 2019 gone? We are at the last few days of the year.

This past year, the Town has not seen a lot of changes. But let's be a little optimistic. What if the Planning and Zoning Commission and Council would let houses be built today? Yes, houses would be started, roads need to be upgraded and water and sewer upgrades. How would all of the upgrades to be paid for? Yes, not on the backs of people who have lived here all of their lives, but who? Development must pay for itself. That's why for the last 30 years things have been very slow. Look around at the towns next to us. Everyone is complaining about high water and sewer rates. We are taking every step to make sure that does not happen here.

Our sewer plant needs upgrades. The upgrades for the present size of the Town may be accomplished with some grant money if available, but new development cannot be funded the same way. The new development and whatever is causing the development must pay for it. Cost and future needs are being addressed.

The Planning Commission meetings are open to the public if you want to see the process. We want Union Bridge to grow, we need it, but we need to make sure it is done right. We only have one chance.

The solar project is still in the making and should be finalized very soon. Nothing will be final until the paperwork is signed.

Lastly, the Flood Zone Marketplace and Brewery will be opening in early spring. Remember new business is great, but make sure we support all local business if you want to see them be successful.

*Perry L. Jones, Jr.,
Mayor*

GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

Sustainable Community Designation Renewal

The Town applied for, and was granted, Sustainable Community status in 2014. This is a five-year privilege which is eligible for renewal after the period has expired. Being a Sustainable Community allows the Town to be eligible to apply for a myriad of grant and funding opportunities available from state and federal agencies.

The Town is in the process of assembling a renewal application with hopes to be granted this status once again for another five years.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for Emergency Generator

The Town has been awarded a grant for funding from FEMA to install an emergency generator. The generator will run the Water Treatment Plant and Town Office in the event of an emergency. We are working with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to implement the project and expect to go out for bid during the next quarter.

Program Open Space (POS)
Grant - Community Center
Parking Upgrades

The Town submitted a project funding request to pave the parking area around the community center and to add parking spaces in front of the center. We have received approval for the project Carroll County and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and have also submitted an application to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for final approval of funding. We are currently awaiting a decision from the Maryland DNR.

For questions on these or any other Town projects, call the Town Office at 410-775-2711.

Happy New Year to all!
Mike Reynolds,
Circuit Rider

COLUSSY'S CORNER

Happy New Year!! Now that 2020 is here, we just have one last thing to do to officially close out 2019, which are our taxes. Since the tax season is quickly approaching, scammers will increase their attempts to get their hands on your hard-earned money. Every year, scammers attempt to call, email, or contact you through your social media platforms, which are often referred to as "phishing scams".

What you should remember if you do receive one of these phishing calls, emails or social media messages:

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) WILL only send you correspondence through the United States Postal Service on official letterhead.
- The IRS WILL NOT ask you to verify your social security number by phone, email or social media post.
- The IRS WILL NOT ask you to provide them with credit/debit card information, by phone, email or social media post.

- The IRS WILL NOT demand immediate payment, by phone, email or social media post.
- The IRS WILL NOT ask for gift cards ever.
- The IRS WILL NOT threaten you with lawsuits or imprisonment for immediate nonpayment of back taxes.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, last year over 3 million fraud attempts were reported to them by citizens. With those reports, the Federal Trade Commission learned the following:

- 1.4 million reports were obtained by the commission, with people reporting that over \$1.48 billion was lost. That number was up from 2017 by 38%.
- The top reports involved imposter scams, debt collection and identity theft.
- Younger people reported losing more money than older people. Last year, of those people, 43% of people in their 20's reported a loss, whereas only 15% of people in their 70's did.
- When people in their 70's did lose money, the amount tended to be higher. The median loss was \$751, compared to \$400 for people in their 20's.
- Scammers like to get money by wire transfer, for a total of \$423 million last year. That was the most of any payment method reported, but a surge of payments was also made with gift and reload cards resulting in a 95% increase in dollars paid to scammers last year.
- The top three states for fraud and other reports were Florida, Georgia and Nevada.

Source: *Federal Trade Commission Consumer Report: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/02/top-frauds-2018>*

So please do not fall victim to the phishing attempts from

scammers pretending to be a representative from the IRS. The best advice is to delete the email, social media message or just hang up the phone. Research shows that, if you remain on the phone line with the scammer, it will cause for more calls in the future.

As always, stay safe out there.

Master Deputy
Brian Colussy

DREAM BIG UNION
BRIDGE

Dream Big Union Bridge wishes everyone a wonderful New Year. Please watch our FB page.

Our next big event is Friday evening, February 15th, 2020 at St. James Lutheran Church on Benedum St. @ 6pm. We're going to shake off the winter blues!

HUGHES TRASH
REMOVAL 2020 HOLIDAY
PICK-UP SCHEDULE

New Year's Day week trash will be picked up one day behind which is Thursday, January 2nd, 2020. Please put out your trash the night before.

PROTECTING CARROLL
COUNTY WATERS

Stormwater in Union Bridge is regulated by law under Phase 1 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permits under EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) administered through the Maryland Department of the Environment.

For more information go to:

<http://ccgoverment.carr.org/ccg/npdes/>

WATER CONSERVATION
INDOOR TIPS

1. **Scrape instead of pre-rinsing.** Save yourself up to 20 gallons of water by scraping food off your dishes instead of pre-rinsing them.
2. **Install high efficiency aerators.** Installing an aerator on your bathroom or kitchen

WINTER SEASON REMINDERS

UNION BRIDGE CODE CHAPTER 130, SEC.4 (B2)

Owners or occupants of premises fronting on any street with paved sidewalks shall remove any snow or ice from the travelled portions of the sidewalk, to a width of at least 30", within 24 hours after snow or ice ceases to fall.

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

Please be advised that Maryland Transportation Article 21-1119 authorizes law enforcement officers to ticket and tow vehicles parked in snow emergency routes when a snow emergency is declared. Violators of this transportation article could be fined \$70. Violators will also be responsible for the tow bill, if the vehicle is towed.

When a snow emergency is declared by the State Highway Administration, the Town of Union Bridge will post the declaration on the Town's website. Please remember to stay educated during snow events. Whenever you hear the weatherman call for snow, play it safe and just remove your vehicle from the street so you are not burdened later with cost associated with violations.

WINTER MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PATTERN SIDEWALKS

1. Sand or kitty litter may be used for traction.
2. Snow removal equipment should have a rubber edged blade.
3. We do not recommend the use of salt or snow melting product containing sodium chloride. In event that these products must be used, wash any residue from the concrete surface.

4. Avoid the use of ice picks or anything that may chip or damage the concrete surface.

SNOW

Main Street is a snow emergency route, **NO PARKING** is allowed when the snow emergency plan is in effect.

NO PARKING

On East Broadway from Lightner Street up to Bellevue and on Thomas Street when the emergency plan is in effect.

SNOW MAINTENANCE AROUND FIRE HYDRANTS

If you have a fire hydrant near your house, please keep it clear of snow so the Fire Department can quickly access it during an emergency.

IMPORTANT

If anyone notices anyone stealing water from hydrants or any unauthorized appropriation of water, please call the Town Hall at 401-775-2711.

SEWER LINE BLOCKAGES

RESIDENTS: If your sewer line becomes blocked please contact the Town Hall at 410-775-2711 before calling a plumber.

FOR WATER AND SEWER

EMERGENCIES

PLEASE CALL

AMY KALIN

1-410-775-0687

THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Available for Weddings, Parties & Reunions. Call the Town Office at 410-775-2711 to inquire about renting the center for your function.

- faucet and save about one gallon per minute each time you run them. An aerator reduces the flow from the faucet, and uses air to maintain good water pressure.
3. **Wash only full loads.** Clothes & dish washers use about the same amount of energy and water regardless of the number of clothes or dishes inside, so run full loads whenever possible.
 4. **Let your dishwasher do the work.** The average dishwasher uses about ten gallons or less per load. Many kitchen faucets use the same amount of water by running for just four minutes.
 5. **Use the microwave,** a bowl of water, or place frozen food in fridge overnight instead of running the tap to thaw it out. You'll save about two gallons of water for each minute the faucet does not run.
 6. **Replace older toilets** with a WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilet. Older toilets can use up to four times more water per flush.
 7. **Regularly check for & repair water leaks.** Even small leaks can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons of water a month. Many water leaks can be fixed by a do-it-yourself plumber, and repair parts are relatively inexpensive to purchase (\$5-20).
 8. **Take shorter showers.** Each minute you shave off your shower time saves up to 2.5 gallons of water.
 9. **Select an Energy Star-approved appliances.** They use 15-20 less gallons of water per load, and you will see savings on your energy costs too.
 10. **Know where your master shutoff valve is located.** This could save water and prevent damage to your home.

D-498

*\$18.50
per hour*

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM

APPLY ONLINE!

2020census.gov/jobs

2020 Census jobs provide:

- Great pay
- Flexible hours
- Weekly pay
- Paid training

For more information or help applying, please call
1-855-JOB-2020

Federal Relay Service:
1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII
www.gsa.gov/fedrelay

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

United States
**Census
2020**



Westminster, Taneytown, Hampstead, Mt. Airy, Manchester, Sykesville, New Windsor, Union Bridge

2020 CensusMaryland

Important Easy and Safe

The United States is **required** to perform a national count of all people living in each state every ten years per the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 2.

The 2020 census impacts Maryland, Carroll County, and all eight Carroll County Municipalities in several important ways.

The census:

- **Assists local decision-making for economic development, school construction and transportation projects, as well as public health, public safety and emergency planning.**
- **Is the basis for funding critical programs and services; and**
- **Determines representation in Congress and impacts local legislative districts;**

EVERY PERSON IN CARROLL COUNTY COUNTS!

Why the Census is **Important**

Census data is used to determine the level of federal funding for programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children (SNAP/WIC), Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and highway and transportation projects.

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than **\$675 Billion** in funding based on census data.
- Every Marylander not counted costs the state approximately **\$18,250** over 10 years – this equates to the state losing **\$26.6 Billion** (based on historical U.S. Census undercount). Just think of the increased funding for government programs, infrastructure improvements, and **our schools!**



Completing your census form ensures Carroll County families, neighbors and communities receive the support they need to live, work, play and grow.





The Census is **Easy**

Filling out your census form can be done in three ways – by mail, phone and online.

The 2020 census will be the first online census in United States history.

Answering the demographic questions in the census helps make sure Carroll County receives its fair share of funding and that economic development and planning decisions accurately reflect our community on April 1, 2020.

Some important facts to remember. Don't forget:

- College students should be counted at their college address, either on or off campus. They should be counted at their parents' home only if they live and sleep there.
- All children must be counted including those under five years old.

The Census is **Safe**

The U.S. Census Bureau must keep all information confidential, including all sensitive personal data. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your personal information.

- Data is collected for statistical purposes only and personal data is never disclosed.
- All census information is private and protected by law in Title 13 of the U.S. Code with violations punishable up to five years in federal prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.
- The Census will not email you.
- The Census will not ask you for your social security number.
- The Census will not ask about money or donations.
- The Census will not ask about anything on behalf of a political party.
- The Census will not ask about your bank or credit card account numbers.

You may choose the way that you will be counted – by mail, by phone or online.

Make yourself count by filling out your Census form in 2020 Carroll County!!!

It is the portrait of us that will last ten years, so let's get everyone in the picture.

Census.Maryland.gov

Email: Census@Maryland.gov • **Twitter:** @MDCensus2020 • **Phone:** 410.767.4500



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Robert S. McCord, Secretary
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary

