

## **Carroll County Cold Weather Resources, Winter 2015**

When the weather is very cold, Carroll County residents who are vulnerable to extreme cold and who do not have enough heat in their homes can visit several locations around the county to stay warm.

### **Warming Centers**

**During the cold weather season, November 15, 2014 – March 31, 2015, when the weather calls for temperatures at or below freezing (32 degrees) or wind chills below zero, Carroll County's Department of Citizens Services offers six warming centers:**

The county's five senior centers are open to the general public, regardless of age, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. For more information on the Senior Centers, call 410-386-3800.

- Mount Airy Senior and Community Center, 703 Ridge Avenue, Mount Airy
- North Carroll Senior and Community Center, 2328 Hanover Pike, Greenmount
- South Carroll Senior and Community Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg
- Taneytown Senior and Community Center, 220 Roberts Mill Road, Taneytown
- Westminster Senior and Community Center, 125 Stoner Avenue, Westminster

The **Citizens Services Office Building** at 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster, is also open to the public from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday – Friday. This building houses Human Services Programs, Citizens Services, and Access Carroll.

### **Libraries**

The **Carroll County Public Library** branches are open from 9:00 AM – 8:45 PM, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Friday-Saturday, and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Sunday. For more information, call 410-386-4488.

- Eldersburg Branch Carroll County Public Library, 6400 Hemlock Drive, Eldersburg
- Finksburg Branch Carroll County Public Library, 2265 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg
- Mt. Airy Branch Carroll County Public Library, 705 Ridge Avenue, Mt. Airy
- North Carroll Branch Carroll County Public Library, 2255 Hanover Pike, Greenmount
- Taneytown Branch Carroll County Public Library, 10 Grand Drive, Taneytown
- Westminster Branch Carroll County Public Library, 50 East Main Street, Westminster

Be aware that all of the above locations may be closed for holidays, severe weather, or other building issues.

### **Other Warming Places**

There are other places you can go to warm up in Carroll County:

- Stores, malls, restaurants
- Churches
- Movie Theaters
- Neighbor's home

## **Cold Weather Shelter**

**Cold Weather Shelter – night only** Carroll County has a cold weather shelter for people who would otherwise be homeless. It operates from mid-November to mid-March. Human Services Programs (HSP) of Carroll County runs the Cold Weather Shelter at 127 Stoner Avenue, Westminster, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. every night. When additional space is needed, Westminster Rescue Mission and the Westminster Senior Center can help.

Individuals do not have to be clean or sober to sleep in the shelter. However, they do need to complete an intake process, so HSP can help them find other services. People who use the shelter who have not completed the intake must make an appointment for the intake process on the next business day.

**On Our Own – day only** During the day, including holidays, On Our Own (410) 751-6600 provides a Cold Shelter, at 265 E. Main Street, Westminster, from about 7am to 6:30pm (Wednesdays until 8:00 PM).

## **Be Prepared**

County residents should be aware of cold weather and be prepared for emergencies.

- Check these places regularly for weather and other important information:
  - Local radio stations: WTTR 1470 AM, 100.7 WGRX FM, 97.9 WIYY FM, 1090 WBAL AM
  - Local TV stations WMAR 2, WBAL 11, WJZ 13, Channel 19, Channel 24, and WBFF 45
  - Web: <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CCOPSSS>
  - Twitter: @CCOPSSS, @CarrollCoMD
- Have a kit with a flashlight, radio, water, food, and extra medicine.
- Be sure you have enough fuel to warm your home.
- Check on elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Make plans on where you will go if you lose heat or power.
- Keep pets inside and include them in your plans.

## **Power Outages / Energy Assistance**

- If your power goes out, report it to your power company. BGE: 877-778-2222, [www.bge.com](http://www.bge.com)  
Potomac Edison: 888-544-4877,  
[https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/potomac\\_edison.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/potomac_edison.html)
- If you need help paying your energy bills, call Human Services Programs at 410-857-2999.

## **Emergencies**

- If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 911.
- If you have a critical need during a community emergency such as a severe storm, call the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 888-5 GET-EOC. The EOC is only open during community emergencies.
- If you have a critical need that is not a life-threatening emergency, call the Emergency Communications Center at 410-386-2260 for assistance.