

# TOURISM

SPRING 2006

Carroll County Maryland

## ALL ABOARD CARROLL COUNTY!

The lure of trains captivates people of all ages. Just the sound of a train whistle creates excitement and an aura of mystery, conjuring up images of passengers off on adventures to distant territories. Railways and trains have certainly played an important role in Carroll County's history, and they continue to fascinate, attracting visitors here to experience the sights and sounds that bring out the kid in all of us. We are proud to be home to these outstanding railroad attractions and activities.

### Western Maryland Railway, Union Bridge

In 2005, the Western Maryland Railway Museum welcomed more than 700 visitors. The Western Maryland Railway Historical Society was founded in 1967 to preserve the heritage and history of the Western Maryland Railway (WMRY) and its predecessors. The society's museum complex at 41 North Main Street in Union Bridge is at home in a former WMRY office building and passenger station. The museum houses an extensive collection of railroad artifacts, archival materials, a large photo collection and an extensive railroader's library featuring historical and technical publications relating to WMRY and other railroads. Major exhibits include caller's boards from Hagerstown and Ridgeley, and the Centralized Traffic Control panel for part of the Lurgan Subdivision. There is an HO-scale model layout to enjoy, and an N-scale layout is under construction. The museum is open Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.,



Hampstead Train Station

and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Free admission, donations welcome.

### Hampstead Train Station/Visitor Center, Hampstead

After more than seven years of work, the Hampstead Train Station restoration is finally complete. Wayne Thomas, who has spearheaded the project, says "the Hampstead Train Station Committee has transformed the once dilapidated building into a museum showcasing Hampstead's history."

The station was constructed in 1912, serving Hampstead and the surrounding area as a passenger and freight depot until the late 1960s. Until the modern road system was constructed, the railroad was the best method of transporting farm goods to Baltimore and bringing manufactured goods into Hampstead.

The museum highlights the role played by the station in the develop-

ment of Hampstead, and how the town depended on the railroad for supplies and goods. Visitors to the museum enjoy perusing logbooks that chronicle every item received and shipped from the station. The visitor's center sells everything "Hampstead" — hats, tee shirts, golf shirts, mugs, pens, balloons, whistles, patches and many other items. The railroad depot is located at 4035 Gill Avenue in Hampstead.

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**Little Sykes Railway Park, Sykesville**

Owned by the town of Sykesville, the Little Sykes Railway Park (LSRP) features a G12 miniature children’s train, operated and maintained by volunteers. Modeled after the Pennsylvania Railroad F-3 diesel engine and passenger train, it allows children to safely (each year the train and track are inspected by the State of Maryland authority) experience a real train ride on a smaller scale.

The train operates from the first Saturday in May until November first. The park is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and rides are free to children from ages 3, up to 48 inches tall (as specified by the State for this scale of train). Although LSRP receives financial support from Sykesville, it heavily relies on free-will donations for operational funds.

The park opened in 2001 and has had a successful five years, delighting young passengers and adult spectators alike. In 2005, the park had a banner year with 2,087 riders, generating donations of approximately \$2,500 to the town of Sykesville. Richard Doxzen, volunteer superintendent, says, “We look forward to seeing many more smiles of youngsters as they experience a real train ride on the Little Sykes Railway in 2006.”

**Old Main Line Visitor Station/  
Baldwin’s Station, Sykesville**

Located on The Old Main Line, the oldest railway in the country, this reconstructed railroad switching tower was salvaged from Baltimore City and arrived in Sykesville via the town of Bowie, Maryland. The building was reassembled and opened in April 2003. The century-old tower once housed railroad workers who directed trains onto tracks at Baltimore’s Penn Station. Today, thousands of people pass through its doors to seek information from the Sykesville visitor center and the U.S. Post Office, which also resides there.

In addition, Sykesville is the home of Baldwin’s Station, an 1883 Queen Anne style railroad station converted into one of the area’s most highly awarded and popular restaurants.

**Sykesville & Patapsco Railway**

Thousands of people who have visited the S&P Railway over the years know it’s all about

the love of trains and fun. The Sykesville & Patapsco Railway Model Train Club formed in 1993 as a non-profit organization of volunteers. The club’s purpose is to stimulate interest in historic railroads through the maintenance of a 1910 C&O Pullman parlor car and a 1927 B&O Caboose located in historic Sykesville on the Old Main Line. These train cars are filled with member-built working model railroad displays and are open to the public free of charge at least once per month — more often during the Christmas season.

S&P Railway members have also developed educational outreach programs on railroad safety for children, model railroading and local railroad history. They take portable model layouts to libraries, nursing homes and VA hospitals. The group is also sponsoring this year’s Model Train Festival on June 3, inviting the public to come and sell or swap their model trains. ◀

**Depot Days, Union Bridge**  
Western Maryland Railway Museum  
& Main Street  
May 21 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Model train exhibits including American Flyer,  
pancake breakfast

**Model Railroad Festival**  
Sykesville Main Street and Pullman Parlor Car  
June 3 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
June 4 — 1 to 5 p.m.  
Historic railroad equipment  
& model train displays, food

**Westminster Train Show**  
Agriculture Center  
November 19 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Model trains, vendors, food



*Sykesville Train Station*

**OFFICERS**

- President**  
Colleen Cole
- 1st Vice President**  
R. Douglas Mathias
- 2nd Vice President**  
Steve Kerkam
- Treasurer**  
Thierry Bompard
- Secretary**  
Jane Sewell
- Past Presidents**  
Harry Colson  
Steve Kerkam  
Nancy McCormick  
G. Melvin Mills

**Board of Directors**

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- Mary Jo Colbert
- Dotie Freeman
- Peggy Funk
- Richard Liebno
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- Tom McPherson
- E. Suzan Miller
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- Shane Wells
- Donna Yeager

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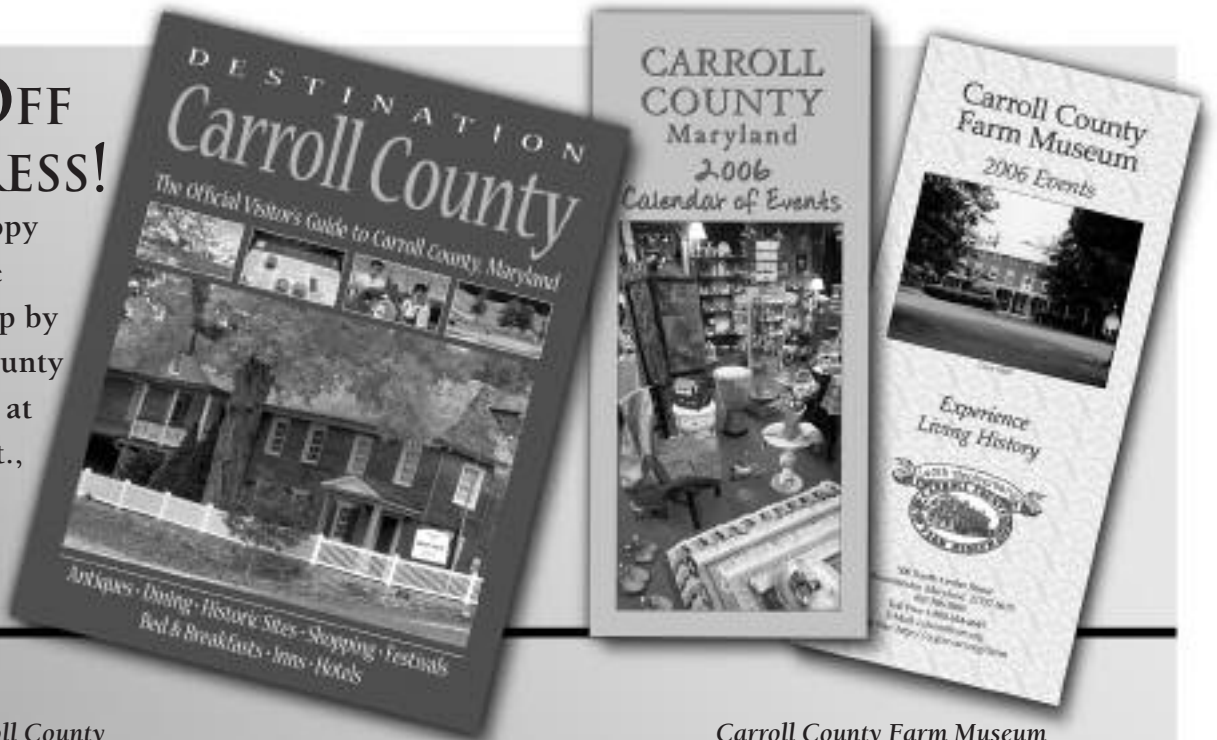
- Barbara Beverungen
- Lawrence Twele

**Tourism Focus**

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Carroll County Office  
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Council of Carroll  
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Room 100  
Westminster,  
MD 21157-5134

## HOT OFF THE PRESS!

To receive a copy of any of these brochures, stop by the Carroll County Visitor Center at 210 E. Main St., Westminster, or call 410-848-1388



### *Destination Carroll County*

Available at the end of April, 100,000 copies of the new visitor's guide, produced by the Tourism Council, will be distributed by the Tourism Office through the local Visitor Center, Maryland Welcome Centers and various travel shows, as well as in response to phone calls received through advertising.

### *Carroll County 2006 Calendar of Events*

This popular publication lists events, golf courses, carnivals and accommodations for visitors. Approximately 65,000 of the 100,000 copies produced have already been distributed.

### *Carroll County Farm Museum*

The museum is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2006 with a complete revamping of its visitor brochure. The new publication includes information on events, special exhibits, the Living History Camp, Traditional Arts Classes, Specialty Teas, exhibit buildings, as well as meetings and weddings. ◀

## VIRTUAL VISITORS

With more and more people making their own travel arrangements today, both the Carroll County Tourism Office's new website ([www.carrollcountytourism.org](http://www.carrollcountytourism.org)) and the Tourism Council's site ([www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org](http://www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org)) continue to have a growing number of virtual visitors on the Internet.

	Tourism Office	Tourism Council	Total
<b>Unique Visitors</b>			
FY 03	25,479	N/A	25,479
FY 04	29,671	4,443	34,114
FY 05	32,507	7,657	40,164
<b>Visitor Sessions</b>			
FY 03	48,151	N/A	48,151
FY 04	54,620	5,733	60,353
FY 05	58,187	10,618	68,805
<b>Page Views</b>			
FY 03	95,889	N/A	95,889
FY 04	107,640	57,549	165,189
FY 05	126,796	69,070	195,866

# SPRING EVENTS

## **Carroll County Tractor & Truck Pull**

April 30 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Raindate: May 7  
Ag Center, Westminster  
410-848-9426

## **Flower Mart & Pancake Breakfast**

May 6 — 7 to 11:30 a.m.  
Breakfast until 10 a.m.  
Carroll Lutheran Village,  
Westminster  
410-848-0090

## **37th Annual Flower & Plant Market**

May 6 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
May 7 — Noon to 4 p.m.  
Union Mills Homestead  
410-848-2288

## **Civil War Living History Reenactment**

May 6 & 7 — 10 a.m.  
to 5 p.m.  
Carroll County Farm Museum  
410-386-3880

## **Songs From Movies & Musicals**

May 6 — 8 p.m.  
May 7 — 3 p.m.  
Carroll Community College  
410-795-5050

## **Carroll County Farmers Market Mother's Day Show**

May 13 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Ag Center, Westminster  
410-848-7748

## **Sykesville Flower Festival**

May 13 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Main Street, Sykesville  
410-549-3095

## **Westminster Flower & Jazz Festival**

May 13 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
East Main Street, Westminster  
410-848-9393

## **The Herb Festival**

May 13 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Piney Run Park  
& Nature Center  
410-795-6043

## **Westminster Ballet Theatre in Concert**

May 13 & 14 — 7:30 to  
9:30 p.m.  
Winters Mill High School,  
Westminster  
410-848-6048

## **7th Annual Taste of Carroll**

May 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Antrim 1844 Country House  
Hotel, Taneytown  
410-871-7653

## **Blacksmith Days**

May 20 & 21 — 8 a.m. to  
5 p.m.  
Carroll County Farm Museum  
410-386-3880

## **Mt. Airy Mayfest**

May 20 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
May 21 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Historic Downtown, Mt. Airy  
301-829-2112

## **Hampstead Day**

May 27 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Main Street, Hampstead  
410-239-3360

## **CARROLL COUNTY VISITOR CENTER**

210 East Main Street  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-848-1388 • 1-800-272-1933  
Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday & Most Holidays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## **CARROLL COUNTY OFFICE OF TOURISM**

Administrative Office  
224 N. Center Street, Room 100  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-386-2983  
Fax: 410-876-1560  
E-mail: [cctourism@ccg.carr.org](mailto:cctourism@ccg.carr.org)  
[www.carrollcountytourism.org](http://www.carrollcountytourism.org)



## **TOURISM COUNCIL OF CARROLL COUNTY, INC.**

P.O. Box 2125  
Westminster, MD 21158  
[www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org](http://www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org)

TOURISM COUNCIL OF CARROLL COUNTY, INC.

# TOURISM

*Focus*

SPRING 2006

P.O. Box 2125, Westminster, Maryland 21158

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U.S. Postage  
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