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ALL STORIES ARE WRITTEN BY GERALD GOAD - PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST (INTERN) FOR CARROLL COUNTY.

[GERALDGOAD@CARROLLCOUNTYVA.ORG](mailto:GERALDGOAD@CARROLLCOUNTYVA.ORG) EXT. 3194

# Love's Travel Stop To Bring Approximately 70-90 New Jobs To Carroll

*As a chain of more than 200 travel stops located across the U.S., Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores will bring a station to Exit 1 off of Interstate 77 in Carroll.*

It was announced on July 10 in the boardroom of the Carroll County Board of Supervisors that Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores will bring one of their stations to Carroll County at Exit 1 off of Interstate 77 – offering approximately 70 to 90 new jobs to the county area with providing more than \$ 7 to 9 million in Capital Investment.

"In the arena of Economic Development we are constantly striving to achieve days like today," said Sam Dickson – Chairman of the Carroll County Board of Supervisors. "However, it is a long and hard road to get to an announcement of any kind. This particular project was conceived almost two years ago and much work has been completed in the mean time. It takes dedication, resources, vision, planning and confidentiality to bring all the pieces together. This Board of Supervisors have committed to development of the assets we have in

Exits on I-77. As you know, Carroll County is blessed with four exits of which only one has full infrastructure (Exit 14). We have another that has partial services (Exit 8) but we have one more that has had no services (nor development) until recently with the advancement of water at Exit 19. Now, today we are announcing another exit that will have



**from left, Wes Hurst, Sam Dickson, Louanne and Greg Crowder, Andy Jackson, David Hutchins and Rick Shuffield of Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores**

services of water and sewer as well as a business. Exit 1 is a 'Golden Opportunity' and today we are opening the vault. We have a commercial business that will be bringing approximately 70 to 90 jobs to Carroll County and will provide more than \$ 7 to 9 million in Capital Investment. They are the leading company in their sector and have more than 200 stores in 33 states. They have more than 5,000 Team Members and have sales in excess of \$ 6 billion."

Dickson continued by saying, "We are very pleased to have Love's Travel Stops and

Country Stores as a new member of the Carroll County landscape! We are excited to have Love's come to Carroll County. It's been our desire as a Board to work hard in preparing areas in the county for economic development and prosperity. We are working hard to make more announcements like today in bringing high caliber operations to Carroll County. We are truly 'Blazing New Business Trails.' This project has encountered many issues such as engineering of the site, entry and development of a water source. We have been pleased to work with folks from Bristol to Raleigh and from Louisiana to Oklahoma plus working with local and state regulatory agencies. The work is not complete, but we s a team will continue to work for the completion of the Love's project and others.

Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores is a family owned business headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla. It began in 1964 when founder, Tom Love, first opened up his filling station in Western Oklahoma. His goal was to provide clean places operated with a friendly atmosphere. Love, along with is sons and one daughter, currently stay involved in the store operations on a daily basis in which they take an active role in what is happening in the stores and the communities that surround them. Love's have appeared for three consecutive years in Forbes Magazine's annual list of the 500 Largest Private Companies."

By introducing Greg Crowder as the "spark plug" of the Love's project, Dickson said, "Greg Crowder is no new name to Carroll County. He is a graduate of Carroll County High School and has become a very successful wholesale supplier

(from page 1) of NASCAR memorabilia and owner of the Hillsville Marathon as well as other holdings. Greg with his lovely wife Louanne have worked tirelessly to assist in bringing Love's to Carroll County. Greg and Louanne truly have the 'entrepreneurial spirit' that it takes to see opportunities and have the vision to carry them out."



In addition to thanking Rick Shuffield of Love's for bringing one of their travel stops and country stores to the county, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors thanked the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission for their \$150,000 grant in assisting with the costs of water and sewer infrastructure, the Carroll County Public Service Authority, the Carroll County Industrial Development Authority, Greg and Louanne Crowder for their local development efforts and the Virginia Department of Transportation for their assistance to the Love's project.

Even though the wasn't able to attend the formal announcement, Manus McMillian – Supervisor of the Fancy Gap district of Carroll in which Exit 1 is located said, "I'm very proud of the work the Board of Supervisors have done, not only with this project but with many other projects that are still on the table. I feel like we've made great strides since we came in office in January. I feel fortunate to be part of such a great team of colleagues that it makes our work easier when we surround ourselves with people that have a vision carrying Carroll County to new beginnings. I want to welcome the Love's team of fine people to Carroll County and this is only the story of the direction that the county needs to go. Our Board of Supervisors and county staff, along with the PSA and the IDA, will continue to make great things happen in Carroll County."



"Love's is absolutely the best travel store available today in the United States and we're pleased to announce that they've chosen Carroll County for their business location," said Gary Larrowe – County Administrator for Carroll.

[www.loves.com](http://www.loves.com).

**WATCH THE LOVE'S PRESENTATION! - 2 Parts**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

## Keeping You Informed In Carroll

*Carroll is the home of two radio stations, a newspaper and is featured on an area news website.*

With citizens needing to be informed about what's happening in the county, Carroll has the luxury of being the home to two radio stations, a newspaper and receiving coverage from a local news website.

"Anything we can do to bring attraction to Carroll County, we will do it," said Scott Gardner – owner of WWZE FM station. Gardner partnered with his Father Herb in starting up the station in August of 2002.

WWZE 101.1 FM is a "low-power" station featuring music from the 80s, 90s and today with classic rock being played each evening. Each Saturday from 7 -9 p.m. the radio station has a Saturday night beach party program in addition to covering Carroll County High School sporting events and keeping county citizens informed on community events and other news.

"We're here to try to help businesses through the struggling economy," said Leon Goad – owner of WHHV 1400 AM radio.

WHHV is part of New Life Communications Company, featuring gospel music from local artists from the county area as well as nationally-known gospel performers. The station runs a news program 5 times a day featuring news happening in the county area.

In addition to news, WHHV features an obituaries program, the Commonwealth's Attorney's report, and on-air programs featuring interest groups within the county, as well as public information for the Hillsville Fire Department.

*The Carroll News* is a newspaper that's part of Heartland Communications being currently in its 88th year with being established all the way back to the year 1920. The newspaper informs the county citizens by featuring current news happening in the area. "We're the citizens' newspaper," said Sonya Bolen – General Manager of The Carroll News.

The Twin Counties now have a website dedicated to serving the people of the area – [www.TwinCountyNews.com](http://www.TwinCountyNews.com). The site offers local, regional, and national news, a calendar of events, online classifieds, and even computer games.

"Our news is different from the city news because life here is different from the hurry hurry of the city," said Rose Bowen – editor of the news website. "I have lived in Floyd County for the last twenty years, and there is so much that happens here that wouldn't be considered "news" out there,

but it's information we want to hear about. In the Twin County area, there's a lot of overlap, people who live in one county and work in the other, and we felt there ought to be a site that kind of "joined" them in a sense of community."

One unique feature that the website offers is an obituary database, which is free to utilize, making it especially attractive to genealogy researchers. "Most area news sites don't have an obits database, or else they charge a fee to access articles more than a week or two past publication," Bowen said. "We consider our free access to be a valuable community service."

## Veterans Clinic Holds Ribbon Cutting

*With it being less than a year in operation, Hillsville's Veterans Affairs clinic celebrated their service to area veterans.*

As visions of patriotism and dedicated service to our country spread throughout the ceremony, veterans in the area celebrated the ribbon cutting of Hillsville's Community Based Outpatient Clinic for the Department of Veterans Affairs Monday.



"The provision of primary care to veterans in our outpatient clinics greatly enhances the ease with which our region's veterans can receive medical care," said U.S. Congressman Rick Boucher – one of many in attendance for the event.

Others on hand for the event were Dr. Mark Shelhorse – Deputy Director and Chief Medical Officer of the VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network, Mr. John Patrick – Director of the Salem VA Medical Center and Dr. Ray Lanier – President of Valor Healthcare, Inc.



Carroll Supervisor Andy Jackson was also in attendance for the ribbon cutting along with Cody Kenny – a Carroll school student and a chorus member singing the national anthem.

With having a contract with Valor Healthcare, Inc., VA's outpatient clinic in Hillsville first opened its doors last October after seeing the need to locate a clinic for veterans in the area to lessen the drive to the VA clinic in Salem.

(more on page 3)

(continued from page 2) The service area for Hillsville's clinic includes portions of Carroll, Grayson, Floyd, Wythe and Patrick Counties. Although the clinic currently serves approximately 1,800 veterans, plans for the future are to serve up to 6,000 at Hillsville's clinic.

Hillsville's clinic offers primary care, mental health, and enrollment services in addition to having a unique feature – a private check-in area. The clinic also offers a waiting room with 33 chairs, six exam rooms, one procedure room, an onsite laboratory and a blood-draw area. On the technology side, the clinic includes a digital X-ray room, computerized EKG machine, as well as offices for a Psychiatrist, physicians, assistants and a even a Radiographic Technician.

According to Congressman Boucher, Virginia's 9th Congressional District representing Southwest Virginia currently has 15 veteran outpatient clinics - more than any other Congressional District in the state with also having plans to construct a VA clinic in Wytheville opening in 2009.

Hillsville's VA clinic is located at 702 Pine St. in Hillsville. For more information on the clinic, call 1-800-310-5001 or visit their website at [www.vacboocs.com](http://www.vacboocs.com).

## News Release Pertaining to Carroll's Fund Balance

(from the Office of the Administrator)

The fund balance of Carroll County is included in the auditing report each year and the process starts July 1st after completion of the fiscal year. This service is put out for bid and last year one firm returned a bid and was awarded the contract. Their report was discussed during the May Board of Supervisors meeting and some confusion was created at that time. The Fund Balance discussed was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The audit reports are required by state law and are used to monitor bookkeeping and accounting principles being used by the county as well as other safeguards.

The auditors recommend a minimum of 10% of a locality's yearly budget be kept as a balance. Carroll County's amount would be \$7.4 million as it has a yearly \$74 million budget of which \$11.9 million is collected through real estate taxes. The fund balance showed a \$10.5 million balance. The corresponding County Treasurer's report given to the Supervisors in July 2007 showed a balance of \$7,235,382.42. The difference between those numbers is a series of accounting adjustments that are required by our auditors. Those balances do not include monies held for Solid Waste Authority and other committed funds.

The fund balance changes monthly as revenues and expenditures are accounted for. The County's yearly budget is determined by each department's needed expenditures and the revenue side is calculated by estimating the amount of revenue that will be generated by sales tax,



food tax, building permits, lodging tax, state and federal funds, plus many other variables. With a declining economy, we kept estimates conservative for the fiscal year 2008. The economy of Carroll County was better than expected and the Fund Balance will reflect an increase in FY 2008 and the treasurer has provided fund balance estimates for FY 2008 as well. The County Treasurer's report shows \$9,381,519.35 and approximately \$2 million of this will be transferred to the School Operating Fund in the month of July 2008 for debt service. In the past we have had to borrow money to pay bills in September, October and November using a Revenue Anticipation Loan. Revenues begin to exceed expenses as taxes begin to come in during November and December.

We are pleased to have a fund balance that allows us to operate our county without borrowing money. We are now in a healthier financial position and do not have to borrow funds to meet our monthly obligations.

*A follow-up story featuring the county's debt level and the tax rate will be in next week's issue.*

## Carroll EMS Receives Grant Award

*Carroll EMS receives a grant award for a 4 -Wheel-Drive Type 1 ambulance from the Office of Emergency Medical Services.*

Carroll County EMS is on a high note now after receiving a grant award for \$81,391.20 in going towards the purchase of a 4-wheel-drive Type 1 ambulance from the Office of Emergency Medical Services for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"We are very pleased and fortunate in receiving this award," said Joe Roma - EMS Coordinator for Carroll.

According to Linwood Pulling of Emergency Medical Services for Virginia, 54

agencies applied for the grant with Carroll being the recipient.

The Financial Assistance for Emergency Medical Services Grants Program, known as the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grant Program is a multi-million dollar grant program for Virginia non-profit EMS agencies and organizations. Items eligible for funding include EMS equipment and vehicles, computers, EMS management programs, courses/ classes and projects benefiting the recruitment and retention of EMS members.

## County Department Announcements

### Carroll County Department of Social Services

#### **Make A Difference – Volunteer In Your Community**

More than 60 million Americans have discovered the secret to living the life they've dreamed about. By volunteering in their communities, they've discovered their passion lies in compassion for others. Once you get involved in your community, you'll discover when you make a difference in someone else's life, you begin living your life. Find your passion. Volunteer today because your time is the greatest gift of all. Visit [www.VAservice.org](http://www.VAservice.org) to learn more.

#### **Help Your Community While Earning Money for College**

How can you earn money for college and help your community at the same time? AmeriCorps is the answer. AmeriCorps members are getting things done in Virginia by tutoring kids, building homes, and responding to natural disasters. Members receive college education awards to help pay for their college expenses while receiving valuable work experience through organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Get involved with AmeriCorps. Find the opportunity that's right for you by visiting [www.VAservice.org](http://www.VAservice.org).

### **Carroll County Office of Tourism**

#### **Tourism Ambassador Program Will Host Seminars Open to the Public**

The Tourism Ambassador Program will be hosting the following seminars from 7-9 p.m. at the Crossroads Institute in Galax. For more information, contact the Carroll County Office of Tourism at 730-3100.

- JULY 21st
- AUGUST 11th
- AUGUST 18th