



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Local Resident Recognized for Participation in History Project

Westminster, Maryland (January 4, 2010) – On Monday, December 21, 2009 the Community Media Center (CMC) recognized Mel Austin, a resident of Westminster, for providing the 250th Carroll County Remembers oral history interview for the Carroll County History Project. A 30-year veteran of the Westminster Police Department, Austin's interview touched on his childhood in Taneytown, working in local bakeries as a youth and how the county has grown over time.

Austin's interview was a crowning achievement for the Carroll County History Project, an initiative that was formally launched in October 2008. At that time, the CMC made it a priority to preserve at least 250 oral histories about Carroll County before the end of 2009. With the help of many dedicated volunteers and significant community outreach, the goal was met. Future goals have yet to be set, but the CMC hopes to make the ongoing project self-sustaining by more fully involving the community in the collection process.

In addition to Austin's interview, the permanent archive, entitled Carroll County Remembers, includes interviews with both residents and non-residents of the county. Carroll County: Through the Eyes of the Black Experience is an additional category of interviews that highlight local history from the minority perspective. Interviews touch on a wide range of subjects including growing up in Carroll County, local residents, farming, railroads, county businesses and activities specific to the area. The interviews are accessible to the public at www.CarrollHistory.org.

The History Project is an ongoing initiative that will continue seeking out residents, business people and others who will document the history of Carroll County through their memories of the area. Anyone interested in taking part in the Carroll County History Project can register on the website at www.CarrollHistory.org or call the CMC at 410-386-4415.



Mel Austin, 250th person to be interviewed for the Carroll County History Project in 2009.



Mel Austin, seated, 250th person to be interviewed for the Carroll County History Project in 2009, with CMC staff members Cynthia Piazza, Sean Galloway and Tony Hooper.

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About the Community Media Center

The Community Media Center is a 501c-3 non-profit organization serving residents and nonprofits of Carroll County, Maryland. We operate the county's Public, Education, and Government Access Center. Our mission is to provide the facilities, equipment, and technical support necessary to allow everyone to affordably access today's dominant communications technologies. Visit www.cmcmd.tv or call 410-386-4415 for information.

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