



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Carroll Community College to Celebrate James D. Ball Athletic Complex with Community Kickoff and Lynx Soccer Doubleheader

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Carroll Community College will celebrate the opening of the new James D. Ball Athletic Complex on Thursday, September 17, 2026, with a community kickoff celebration followed by the Carroll Lynx men's and women's soccer teams hosting Allegany College of Maryland.

The community celebration will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. at Carroll Community College, 1601 Washington Road in Westminster. The men's soccer match will begin at 4 p.m., followed by the women's match at 6 p.m. Both games will serve as the teams' first home games of the 2026 season.

"The James D. Ball Athletic Field Complex represents what is possible when a community comes together around a shared vision. Made possible through the partnership of Carroll County Government, the Carroll Community College Foundation, donors, and community supporters, this facility expands opportunities for our student-athletes, strengthens the campus experience, and creates a welcoming place where students, families, partners, and community members can come together, build connections, and thrive," said Dr. Rose Mince President of Carroll Community College

The Complex advances Carroll Community College's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, *Enter to Learn. Experience. Earn.*, by investing in modern spaces, strengthening the student experience, fostering belonging, and creating meaningful connections between the College and the community it serves.

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The celebration will recognize the partnership and collective investment that transformed a shared vision into a new resource for student-athletes and the broader community. Guests will have opportunities to explore the facility, enjoy family-friendly activities, and hear remarks about the collaboration among Carroll Community College, Carroll County Government, the Carroll Community College Foundation, donors, corporate sponsors, and community advocates.

The \$5.6 million project is funded through a \$2.4 million commitment from Carroll County Government and a \$3.2 million contribution from the Carroll Community College Foundation. The Foundation's investment reflects the collective generosity of individual donors, corporate partners, and community supporters whose contributions helped transform a shared vision into reality. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to supporting student achievement, expanding community engagement, and strengthening opportunities for recreation and regional athletic events.

The complex includes:

- A FieldTurf synthetic playing surface;
- A Beynon 400-meter, eight-lane regulation running track;
- Dedicated areas for hurdles, long jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus, javelin, hammer throw, and steeplechase;
- Integrated spectator seating; and
- Musco sports lighting for evening competitions and community events.

The complex was named in honor of Carroll Community College President Emeritus Dr. James D. Ball. During his tenure, Dr. Ball helped advance the College's vision for an expanded athletics program that supports student success, leadership, teamwork, campus life, and community connection.

About Carroll Community College

Carroll Community College's mission is **Empowering learners. Changing lives. Building community.** The College provides accessible, high-quality educational opportunities that advance careers, enrich lives, and strengthen the community. Carroll is located at 1601 Washington Road, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Learn more at carrollcc.edu.

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Fact Sheet

James D. Ball Athletic Complex Kickoff

Event at a Glance

Date	Thursday, September 17, 2026
Community Kickoff	3–4 p.m.
Men’s Soccer	Carroll Lynx vs. Allegany College of Maryland, 4 p.m.
Women’s Soccer	Carroll Lynx vs. Allegany College of Maryland, 6 p.m.
Location	Carroll Community College, James D. Ball Athletic Complex
Address	1601 Washington Road, Westminster, MD 21157

Project Investment

- **Carroll County Government:** \$2.4 million
- **Carroll Community College Foundation:** \$3.2 million
- **Total project investment:** \$5.6 million

Why It Matters

- Provides a dedicated home venue for Carroll Athletics.
- Enhances the student-athlete experience and supports student engagement, pride, and belonging.
- Expands the College’s capacity to host competitions, special events, and community programming.
- Creates opportunities for recreation, tournaments, and regional events.
- Demonstrates the impact of government, philanthropic, corporate, and community partnership.

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Strategic Alignment

The project supports Carroll's institutional priorities by:

- **Building Bridges to Success:** investing in modern, high-quality learning and activity environments;
- **Putting People First:** promoting student well-being, belonging, leadership, and engagement; and
- **Fostering a Connected Community:** bringing together students, employees, alumni, families, partners, and residents.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

James D. Ball Athletic Complex

1. What is being celebrated on September 17?

Carroll Community College is celebrating the opening of the James D. Ball Athletic Complex and the 2026 home soccer season. While some final elements of the athletic complex project are still being completed, the facility is ready to host intercollegiate competition. The public kickoff celebration will take place from 3 to 4 p.m., followed by a men's soccer game at 4 p.m. and a women's soccer game at 6 p.m.

2. Who will Carroll play?

The Carroll Lynx men's and women's soccer teams will host Allegany College of Maryland. The official Carroll Athletics schedule confirms the men's match at 4 p.m. and the women's match at 6 p.m.

3. What does the new complex include?

The complex includes a FieldTurf synthetic playing surface, a Beynon 400-meter eight-lane running track, track-and-field event areas, spectator seating, Musco sports lighting, storage, and related infrastructure.

4. Why was the facility developed?

The facility was developed to strengthen Carroll Athletics, provide a consistent competition and practice environment, enhance student engagement, and expand opportunities for community recreation and sports and regional events. It is intended to serve as both an athletic venue and a community gathering place.

5. How was the project funded?

The publicly announced project investment is \$5.6 million, including \$2.4 million from Carroll County Government and \$3.2 million from the Carroll Community College Foundation.

6. Why is the complex named after Dr. James D. Ball?

The facility was named in honor of Carroll Community College President Emeritus Dr. James D. Ball. The College recognizes his leadership in shaping the vision for expanded athletics, student development, and community engagement.

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7. Will the complex be used only by Carroll Community College?

No. The facility is intended to support College athletics, academic and College-sponsored activities, and scheduled community use. College activities will receive scheduling priority, with community use managed around those commitments. Following the College's September 17 opening celebration, portions of the project will continue through the fall. As a result, the facility will be used for College activities until it is fully operational, with community and outside organization use anticipated to begin in Spring 2027, subject to facility readiness.

8. Who will coordinate community rentals?

The plan is for Carroll County Recreation & Parks to coordinate. However, the College and County are still finalizing the operational agreement, rental procedures, access hours, and scheduling guidelines.

9. Will the track always be open to the public?

There will be limited access to the track. We are expecting a high volume of use by the College and community organizations; therefore, access will be managed around athletics, academic programs, practices, competitions, College events, and community reservations. When the facility is ready for full use in 2027, we will post updated availability. Specific public and employee access hours have not yet been confirmed.