

**GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc.**

**Press Release**

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**November 2, 2016 GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. issues its 2016 annual holiday ornament, *The Carroll County Almshouse and Farm*.**

Fundraising Chairwomen for ornament sales, Connie Kidder and Nancy Groft, of the GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. present the club’s annual holiday ornament for 2016. It is the 13th in the series, and depicts *The* *Carroll County Almshouse and Farm*, located at 500 South Center Street, Westminster, MD.

This ornament is particularly appropriate for this year because the Farm Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as Maryland’s first farm museum. Join the celebration by visiting and enjoying an educational experience for the entire family. Walk the grounds, watch artisans keep the traditions of blacksmithing, weaving, and tinsmithing alive, explore historic buildings and visit the animals. Tour the original *Almshouse*, circa 1853, built and opened in 18 months to shelter the poor and needy of Carroll County. The Almshouse and surrounding acreage functioned as a true farm and housed residents for 114 years.

In 1965 the Board of County Commissioners recommended that the Almshouse be closed; however, it was decided that the farm and its well-preserved buildings should serve as an agricultural museum highlighting the farming heritage of Carroll County.

The *Carroll County Almshouse and Farm ornament* is a striking addition to the club’s previous ornaments. It can be purchased for $20 including tax in Westminster at the McDaniel College Bookstore, 2 College Avenue; the Carroll County Arts Council, 91 West Main Street; the Historical Society of Carroll County, 210 East Main Street; the Westminster Antique Mall, 433 Hahn Road; the Shop on the Square at Carroll Lutheran Village, 900 Mission Square; the Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 Farm Museum Drive; and from members of the Woman’s Club. Ornaments will be available for sale by November 4 and will remain at the vendor locations through the end of the year. For those wishing to purchase ornaments from prior years to complete their collection, please contact Mary Lou Poirier via the email address above.

GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster is a volunteer service group, part of a state and international federation of Women’s Clubs, working in the Westminster community to better the lives of its citizens. Ornament sales are a major fundraiser for the club, helping to provide funds for its community service projects.

For more information, contact Mary Lou Poirier at gloupoirier@gmail.com.

Visit our website at [www.gfwcmd.org/clubs/western/westminster.womans.html](http://www.gfwcmd.org/clubs/western/westminster.womans.html)

