



Montgomery Countryside Alliance

March 17, 2008

Thanks for being a Friend of the Ag Reserve!

Local Food: A Delicious Benefit of the Ag Reserve

Having the Agricultural Reserve so close to a major metropolitan city presents a tremendous opportunity for supplying the region's residents with fresh, high-quality local products. As the local food movement gains momentum in the Washington, D.C. area and throughout the country, demand is increasing for food that has not traveled thousands of miles to reach the table.

There are already many folks in Montgomery County who are growing fruits, vegetables and cut flowers, raising bees for honey, and raising animals for meat, eggs, milk and cheese. With 93,000 acres dedicated to agriculture, Montgomery has the potential to be a regional leader in food produced for local consumption.

On March 17th, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance is hosting a workshop on local food production. Our hope for this workshop is to gather producers, buyers and interested community members to discuss ways to enhance the local food network within the county. We will keep you updated on new initiatives and opportunities. Until then, we can all look forward to local strawberries in May!



www.RuralMontgomery.org

Note from the Campaign Director



Spring is a time of change. As we move into a beautiful time of year, I have news about a transition for the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. After almost four years working for MCA—and enjoying every aspect of our work and campaign—I will be attending graduate school at the University of North Carolina and pursue a Masters degree in city and regional planning. While it will be hard to leave, I'm looking forward to returning to school with the tremendous land use, transportation and preservation experience I have cultivated while in this job.

I have so appreciated each of you and all the wonderful people with whom I have built relationships over the past few years. I will be leaving the second week of April. If you know of someone who might be interested in the Campaign Director position, please let me know and I will send along the job description. I am confident that our strong momentum celebrating and advocating for rural Montgomery will continue. I hope you will stay integrally involved in the work of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Thanks to each of you for your consistent involvement and dedication to our community!

Andrea

Add Some “Fire” to Your Decor



Looking to add something dazzling to your home? Art of Fire lives up to its name by creating beautiful glass pieces in a variety of colors, textures, and styles. This contemporary glass studio is located in a renovated dairy barn on a farm near Laytonsville. This rural setting is the perfect inspiration for novice and skilled artists alike. Foster Holcombe and Theda Hansen have worked with glass for over 20 years and, together with five resident artists, create a unique and beautiful line of glass.

Want to learn glassblowing for yourself? Art of Fire offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes and also rents out furnace time. So whether you want to look at the glass items in their gallery and gift shop or master the “Art of Fire” for yourself, this is the place for you! *Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm at 7901 Hawkins Creamery Road in Laytonsville; call ahead at 301-253-6642 or visit www.artoffire.com.*

MCA Welcomes New Board Members



Tufail Ahmad is one of the founding members of the Montgomery County Muslim Council and is active in local and state politics. He ran for County Council in 2006 and is concerned about environmental and transportation issues in the county. He is a retired businessman and lives in Potomac.



Niki Lewis is the owner and operator of Green Earth Goods, an organic food store selling local products in the historic Clarke/Wilson store in Clarksburg. She is particularly interested in encouraging consumers to buy locally grown, organic produce and is working on establishing an organic education and resource center in the Ag Reserve. Niki lives in Boyds.

Leslie Cronin lives in Olney and is her local civic association's representative to the Greater Olney Civic Association. She is also a Master Gardener and particularly interested in enhancing and sustaining the local agriculture network. She is retired from the Audubon Naturalist Society where she worked in the communications department. She was formerly a member of the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.

Save the Date! Tuesday, July 8th

Throughout this year, Montgomery Countryside Alliance will be partnering with Whole Foods Market to raise awareness about the Agricultural Reserve. On **Tuesday, July 8th**, the four Whole Foods Markets in Montgomery County (Bethesda, Kentlands, Silver Spring and Rockville) will be hosting a 5% Day for us.

This is a great opportunity for our members to support our work while doing their shopping!

Five percent of their revenue for the day will be donated to MCA. In addition, we will have events and information at each of the stores so that we can educate shoppers about the importance of the Ag Reserve. Get your grocery list ready, tell your friends and come to Whole Foods Markets on July 9th!



**Contact Us for the
following Member Resources:**

*To receive the newsletter by email
or to unsubscribe from the newsletter list

*To have a representative speak to your
civic group, religious community
or recreational association
on the Agricultural Reserve

*To volunteer by responding to our action
alerts, writing a letter to the editor,
giving a presentation to your civic group,
or planning a tour for your recreational
group or friends



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Yes! I am proud to support the protection of the Agricultural Reserve and Rural Wedge.

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Checks can be made payable to *Montgomery Countryside Alliance*. Contributions can also be made online at www.RuralMontgomery.org. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Please send your donation to: **Montgomery Countryside Alliance
PO Box 83045
Gaithersburg, MD 20883**

Thank you for your support!