***Chet Anderson Receives 2012 Royce Hanson Award***

Montgomery County Alliance (MCA) presents the Royce Hanson Award in recognition of outstanding commitment toward the protection of Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve. The award is named after its first recipient, Dr. Royce Hanson, former Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and original architect of the Ag Reserve.

This year, the honoree is recently-retired veterinarian Chet Anderson. In giving Anderson the award, MCA made the following statement:

For many in Montgomery’s Ag Reserve and its rural villages, Chet is, and will always be, the embodiment of the trusted, warm, and caring country vet. His sole interest—making the animals better, whether lap sized or farm sized—made us better, too. For decades, he and his trusted practice were the glue that binds in Montgomery’s rural community.

Chet lends his time and talent to a number of local civic groups such as Sugarloaf Regional Trails as well as the Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy. An avid birder, he is the current president of the Purple Martin Society of Frederick and is on a mission to help restore the area population of barn owls. He is acutely aware of the need to work together to ensure the strength and health of our rural communities and farms. The good news: thanks to collaborative efforts, new farmers are coming to the Reserve, including the recent addition of a new creamery/dairy operation. Needless to say, Chet will be one busy guy in retirement and will always be the admired country vet.