



# La Dee Dah



## Le Monde Demain

April 2004

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### Feedback & Update

The winner of a \$50 gift certificate to Gunnings Seafood Restaurant is Christine Bouma of Ellicott City. She correctly identified our "Who is it?" person for March as County Executive James N. Robey. Try your luck this month, Christine would tell you it's worth the effort!

### County Schools

Last issue we mentioned the excise tax on new construction homes approved by legislators to pay for school construction. Despite proposing record high spending on schools, Howard County Executive James N. Robey's \$198.4 million capital budget would delay the start of a new northeast elementary school another year, if okayed by the county council.

With money so tight and with no definite site determined for the new elementary school, officials agreed that it made sense to defer it. The delay will keep that region closed to new residential projects but will also postpone a solution to that area's school crowding problem.

Despite a record \$94.7 million in proposed spending on school construction, classroom crowding remains among the thorniest problems in Howard County.

A big chunk of that school construction money from the capital budget is to pay for completing the new northern high school in Marriottsville, which is scheduled to open in August 2005. But elementary school crowding remains a problem in the western and northern parts of the county.

The available options present county officials with a series of dilemmas. Building a big, new western elementary school in Dayton will help, for example. But it will also reopen the region for the construction of 566 homes that are now on a waiting list under county laws that slow development when schools are overburdened.

### Howard County General Hospital Expansion Planned

Our local hospital is planning to increase its capacity by more than 26 percent to 230 beds, all in private rooms. The expansion is expected to cost \$50 million and will require the hospital to borrow between \$35 and \$40 million. (HCGH is a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, but while our local facility benefits in many ways from the association, money really does not flow to or from the larger institution.) The highly leveraged project should be completed within five years, according to President and CEO Victor A. Broccolino.

Howard County General serves more than just the local community, and currently the limited number of beds can cause a long wait for the patients who have been treated in the emergency room and are ready to be admitted. Traffic in the emergency room has increased by more than 10% in the last year, and is expected to continue to grow with the population. The need for expansion is not surprising.

A private room for every patient is a major goal of the project. Shared rooms are less desirable for many reasons, and building a new patient tower will allow for the conversion of existing rooms from double to single occupancy.

What does all this mean to you? Of course we all hope that we will not need to avail ourselves of the facility, but if we ever do, we want the best there is to be ready and waiting for us...not the other way around.



The secret of being a bore is to tell everything.

Voltaire  
1694-1778

### Who is it?

Born August 6, 1942, he's been married to Santina Matassa for 40 years. They have four children: Lisa, Anita, Victor, and Dino, and five grandchildren: Thomas Matthew, Elam Jacob, Dino Michael, Maria Elise, and Cecilia Grace. He graduated from Calvert Hall High School in 1960 and was an All-Maryland soccer player. (He enjoys sharing the fact that he worked on a beer truck during his summer breaks)

#### *His philosophy in a nutshell:*

First, he would say is the Golden Rule. But after that, "Don't worry about things you cannot control."

#### *The best lesson he ever learned:*

"Be fair to everyone."

#### *If he could change one thing:*

He would love not to be colorblind. Not that he frets over the path not taken, but he still wonders how different his life might have turned out if he had attended the Naval Academy, where he had an appointment until the condition was discovered. He thought he might be a fighter pilot!

#### *If he had the opportunity to spend an evening with anyone:*

At first he thought maybe Robert E. Lee or George Patton for their leadership and integrity. Later, he reconsidered and decided on Jim Moran (The Courtesy Man) of JM Family Enterprises for his leadership in today's environment.

#### *One thing he would like people to know:*

There are several things: He appreciates his great family; he never had a job he didn't love (in the aggregate); and he truly admires people who can do what he cannot.

#### *Who is it?*

There are so many places it's hard to choose just one, but for a nice, informal meal, he likes the Double T. E-mail, call, or write us by April 30 with who it is and we'll enter you in our drawing for two \$25 gift certificates to Double T Diner. Maybe you'll see him there!

There are three faithful friends - an old wife, an old dog, and ready money.  
Poor Richard

### Beware the Ides of April...

A fool and his money are soon parted.  
The rest of us wait until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

When it comes to the IRS and your money, you really have to hand it to them.

Death and taxes are inevitable, but death doesn't repeat itself!

Even if money could buy happiness, think what the luxury tax would be!

Letter to IRS: "Enclosed is a check for \$1,500. I've been unable to sleep since I cheated on my taxes. If I still cannot sleep, I'll send the rest!"

I just sent the IRS a great big check. Now I'm all paid up through 1999.

A special clock for the IRS - it doesn't tick, it just wrings its hands.

Of course you can't take it with you... It goes before you do!

The best things in life are still free... But the IRS is working on the problem.

The trouble with today's taxes is that they keep your take-home pay from ever getting there.

A harp is a piano after taxes.

Ever want to ask your IRS agent, "What did you do with the money I sent you last year?"

### The Other Shoe



Thanks to MacNelly Productions

## Minding Our Own Business: How High is Up?

The price of houses in our market area has been climbing at an unprecedented rate. The average price of a single-family home in Howard County has increased from \$232 thousand in March of 2000 to more than \$365 thousand last month. Ask me how high the prices can go, and I'll say the sky is the limit!

That's just an opinion, but here are some facts:

- Supply is down. (At the end of March there were 387 single-family homes for sale in Howard County, compared to 820 four years ago.)
- Building permits are being limited in Howard County.
- Demand is up. (Contracts year-to-date are 847 compared to 835 four years ago. That's a small increase, but an increase just the same.)
- Our schools are rated among the best in the country.
- Interest rates are low (less than 6%), and they are likely to stay relatively low for a while. (This *is* an election year!)

This makes us believe we are in for another year of double-digit increases in home values. If it seems impossible for prices to continue to climb, just think about 25 years ago when a home cost about 20 percent of today's price.

If you own a home now, be glad you do. If you do not own a home, don't wait for prices to come down. We'll bet they won't!

Congratulations to Andrew and Kim Wetten and their twins Aaron and Jelena. They settled on their new home in West Friendship in March. (They have more than seven acres and room for all the animals Kim could want.) We look forward to having them as neighbors.

If you are looking for a good deal on a case of Red Bull Energy Drink, call us...Andrew can make it happen.

Remember, it's about YOU and your home. We know that, and we're here to help. Don't hesitate to call us.

For *real* help selling or buying real estate in Howard County or the vicinity,

**Call us at 410-418-8104.**



## Recipe Corner: Guy's Unrivaled White Chili

Guy Auld is a REALTOR® in our Long & Foster office. Here's Guy's story in his own words:

"My wife, Patty, does not like tomatoes or sauces with chunks of tomatoes. Also, she is from Wisconsin (dairy land) but refuses to drink milk. Can't explain that one, but that has nothing to do with this chili! Anyway, she loves spicy food without tomatoes. I had some white chicken chili at a friend's Daytona 500 party one year. He called it his 100mph White Chicken Chili. So, I took his recipe, shifted to overdrive, added some "high octane" and served it to my wife. She loves it and I think you will too, even if you do like tomatoes. Careful on the pit stops!"

Note: If your recipe card is missing, contact us and we'll see that you get one. You'll want this one!

You can find our past recipes on our Website:  
[www.DickCorfield.com](http://www.DickCorfield.com)



Richard, REALTOR

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This month's enclosed item of value is a list of tips for preparing your home for sale. It's something you may want to tuck away for the day when you are (or someone you know is) preparing to sell. These tips are tried and proven.

Of all the things a seller can do to assure a trouble-free sale, making the home ready for sale is top on the list. Any home will sell sooner, for more money, and with less hassle if it is properly prepared for sale.

Of course, when it comes time to sell your home, be sure to call us if we can be of help. It's what we do!

### Equal Housing Opportunity

Live where you want to live...  
**Let us help!**

