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What office are you seeking?: County Council At-Large
Where can voters learn more about your positions?: www.rosemary4council.com

2 Someone new to Montgomery County may ask, "What's the Ag Reserve and why is it important?" What's your answer?

The Ag Reserve is short for Agricultural Reserve, 93,000 acres set aside for preserving farms and agriculture in Montgomery County. We are a model for the nation. I believe the Ag Reserve was set aside in 1975. We need to keep the Ag Reserve from being developed. Farms are important in supplying us with the food we need and it's an important economic part of our County. We need the green space, as a balance to all the development. The Ag Reserve is not only farms, orchards, but also wineries, the equine industry, and horticulture. There will be many attempts to carve away some of the Ag Reserve, but we need to emphatically resist! The Ag Reserve is good for the whole county, allowing all, especially children, to see working farms, etc. and learn where their food and milk comes from.

3 What are your priorities regarding stewardship of the County's natural resources (water, forests, open spaces) and parkland?

I am in favor of protecting all our natural resources, especially Ten Mile Creek. We need to expand our Parks, so that all, especially children, can hike trails and enjoy the wide open spaces. It's part of a healthy balance of mind, body, and spirit.

4 What is your vision for the future of the County's Agricultural Reserve? Briefly, how would you achieve that vision?

I envision keeping the Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County in perpetuity. I would help our farmers keep their farms and pass on farming to the next generation. I'd assist farmers, as much as possible---lessen government red tape. I'd encourage more non-traditional farms, such as wineries, equine industry, and horticulture.

5 Can you identify some of the top challenges to the Reserve's local agriculture and what actions you would take, if elected, to address them?

I think developers will try to build in the Ag Reserve, but we have to stand firm and not allow such development. Developers need to build in other parts of the County. I'd try to market the Ag Reserve to all County residents, especially in the Downcounty. I'd encourage more class field trips for our students to visit the farms in the Ag Reserve. Also, we could introduce the occupation of farming to the students via some mentoring from our farmers.

6 What more can be done to support our local farm businesses and rural communities?

Encourage all to buy local and to support the farms, orchards, etc. Spread the word and advertise all that's in the Ag Reserve. Have more events in the Ag Reserve. We need to market and push the Ag Reserve, not just for Montgomery County residents, but regionally to those in the DMV. Have more class field trips.

7 How should our County manage its solid waste? What role should incineration, composting and recycling play?

We need to encourage all citizens and businesses to recycle more. We can't afford to have so much trash in our landfills. We must encourage composting and educate the public on how to do it. We need to study the Dickerson Incineration Site and figure out how to do things better and not so harmful to our citizens and the air we breathe.

8 How can we expand the role the County's schools play in the support of a healthy local food system and the success of local agriculture? Do you support a rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools acknowledging the unique nature of schools in region set aside for farmland and open space preservation?

We need to introduce classes on farming and agriculture in all our schools, especially in the Upcounty. Have the farmers come talk to and mentor the students. I'd have to learn more about and study the rural schools' policy that provides equity for Reserve cluster schools.

9 Currently the County is exploring how best to support a strong agricultural economy through agritourism and new farming enterprises such as on farm breweries and wineries. What are your thoughts about how best to advance on farm activities within the context of the master plan?

I think it's a good idea to broaden the enterprises in the Ag Reserve, such as farm breweries, wineries, beekeeping, flowers and herbs, and the equine industry. I need to see exactly what is in the Master Plan for the Farms and the Ag Reserve and work with the farmers to see how best to include these new on farm activities.

10 What are your regional transportation priorities? Do you support M83 and an additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway through the Reserve or adjacent rural zones?

I do support M-83. It's been in the Master Plan since 1964 and "the last frontier" of Clarksburg was built upon the fact that M-83 would be built and completed. You can't go from 2,000 people to 40 or 45,000 people without completing M-83. I don't believe in "bait and switch". The developers finished Snowden Farm Parkway to Ridge Road/Route27 and now the County has to finish the 5.6 miles left. I believe we need transit AND this road, M-83. It's NOT "either" or "or". It's both.
I'm in favor of helping METRO by all 3 entities, MD, VA, and DC. I think we need to make sure the high cost of BRT and the CCT warrants them being built. I want to make sure they'll be used by a large number of our residents. I'm not so sure they will be. I need to study the additional Potomac bridge and outer beltway. We may need to do it, but NOT through the Ag Reserve.