

Happenings *on the* Foodie Front

Amber Davis

On the Farm and Dreaming

When local legend and international rock star Dave Matthews and his wife, Ashley Harper, decided to cease growing operations at their 70-acre Maple Hill Farm outside of Scottsville, Virginia—once the home of the now-defunct Best of What's Around CSA—they approached the area's Local Food Hub about using the land. A wholesale buyer and distributor of local farm products, the hub reestablished the land as **a community-supported nonprofit farm to educate and prepare a future generation of farmers.**

The Educational Farm at Maple Hill hosts regular volunteer days on Wednesdays and every first and third Saturday of the month. Three full-time farm apprentices currently live and work on the farm as well. The farm also hosts regular community service projects and educational workshops for area producers. From the crops growing on six acres this year, 25 percent will go to area food banks, charities, and soup kitchens; the rest will be used to supplement the food collected from surrounding area farms, which is sold to many large community businesses and local schools.

Local Food Hub (434) 286-2176, www.localfoodhub.org



From Mobile to Market

Three years ago, Libby Rector Snipe's and Sara and Chris Guerre's passion for local foods led them to launch On the Gourmet, a full-service, mobile food marketplace housed in a retrofitted 26-foot plumber's truck. The trio would drive their mobile market throughout Northern Virginia to sell and deliver fresh, regional foods. After a successful two years in business, the Guerres decided to add a permanent physical location to their operations, opening **Maple Avenue Market** in downtown Vienna last September. **Ninety-five percent of the store's products are sourced locally from area farms and small producers,** and some produce is grown by



the Guerres themselves on their small farm in northern Fairfax County. The store offers its own CSA program and also distributes CSA shares for two other small farms in the area. The couple still drives the On the Gourmet truck to the Great Falls and West End Alexandria farmers markets each weekend. This year, the Guerres's small farm operation became the first to sell fresh produce directly to Arlington County Public Schools. They have also partnered with the Discovery Woods School

in Great Falls to grow and source ingredients for its students.

Maple Avenue Market (703) 957-9348, www.mapleavenuemarket.com



Get a Byte to Eat

Tired of waiting in line to order food from your favorite local establishment? Then try **OrderTopia**, the new way to order food without ever entering a restaurant. Created in Charlottesville, Virginia, by local residents Dan Epstein (the co-owner of Eppie's), Brian Williford, and John McAllister, OrderTopia **allows customers to place online and mobile orders, pay, and choose a pick-up time anywhere there's an Internet connection—be it via iPhone or computer.** OrderTopia is also building in social network features for restaurants and users to tie in to their accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Charlottesville restaurants Eppie's and local food superstar Revolutionary Soup are already using the service, as is Elevation Burger, a national grass-fed hamburger chain. OrderTopia has already built an iPhone app for Elevation Burger, with apps on the way for Revolutionary Soup, Eppie's, and other Charlottesville restaurants. Next up for OrderTopia are online stores and apps for local restaurants Rise Pizzaworks, Sticks Kebab Shop, Boylan Heights, and Mellow Mushroom. Online ordering for customers is free, as are the iPhone ordering applications.

Ordertopia (434) 293-8857, www.ordertopia.com