

# BULL RUN OBSERVER™

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## Thanks, but no thanks! Fate of Mt. Atlas uncertain

By MICHELLE BAKER  
Observer staff

While most homes are selling like hotcakes in Prince William County, one local woman can't seem to find anyone to take an 18th-century house off of her hands. Built in 1795, Mount Atlas, a 1-1/2 story manor house in Haymarket, was left to the county by the estate of Barton Padgett if the county fathers would move it off the property. In a unanimous vote last week, the Prince William County Supervisors decided not to try to save Mount Atlas in Haymarket.

"I was quite surprised," said Jennie Heflin, executor of the Padgett estate. "Sounds like the county has broken a promise to Mr. Padgett."

"I don't want the property to go to developers," added Heflin who was also surprised to see mention of turning the land over to developers in some papers since she had never been contacted by the media about the property until now. Heflin is now left to decide what to do with the house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She has contacted the Virginia Department of Historic Places in hopes of getting some direction on where to go from here. The former owner's wishes were specific about giving the house to the county; however, there was no back-up plan should the county

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## Concert series needs volunteers

Volunteers, new and experienced, are needed to come forward and put their special skills to work for the Bluemont in Haymarket summer concert series, which will begin its second season here next month. The first meeting will be Wednesday, April 25, at 7 p.m., at the Haymarket Town Hall.

"There are opportunities for anyone and everyone who wishes to become involved and a whole lot of fun to be had on the way," says Ellen Wilson, who is chairing the concert series for the second year. For questions call Wilson at 703/754-7884.



Mount Atlas, a 1-1/2 story manor house, about 100 yards off Mt. Atlas Lane in Haymarket

Michelle Baker / the Bull Run Observer

## Rt. 234/29 intersection could take until 2002

By ROSE MURPHY  
Observer staff

The \$1.8 million worth of road improvements to the Rt. 234/U.S. 29 intersection at the Old Stone House at Manassas National Battlefield Park is expected to be finished late this year or the beginning of next year, according to Billy Green, Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) project engineer. A&W Construction Co., Lorton, began work in February on the improvements.

Work has begun on the foundations for the pedestrian bridge, the widening of the cul-

vert over Young's Branch on Rt. 29 and excavations for the parking lot at the Stone House.

Dusty Holcombe, VDOT's location and design engineer for the project, said the work was to go to bid last May but was delayed because the US Park Service's environmental assessment and the permit process with the US Army Corps of Engineers needed to be completed.

Cultural resource work involving the Historical Council of Virginia and the State's advisory council also needed to be finished. Bids were let in November.

"A temporary bridge will be

built over Young's Branch, and a detour set up, all within the VDOT right of way," Holcombe reports.

The improvement project also involves installing four dedicated left turn lanes at the intersection of Rt. 234 and Rt. 29. VDOT defines a dedicated turn lane as "one from which you only can make that particular movement."

The existing parking lot at the Stone House will be relocated to the other side of the building. Twelve parking spaces, a handicapped slot and room to park a bus are planned.

## Rt. 28 widening project nearing public review

By ROSE MURPHY  
Observer staff

Plans to widen VA Rt. 28 to six lanes from the Rt. 234 Bypass to relocated Vint Hill Road in the Bull Run area are in the design stage, with public hearings expected this Summer, according to Helen Cuervo of the Manassas

office of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Relocated Vint Hill Road will be about a mile South of the existing Vint Hill Road. Work on the project from the bypass to the Vint Hill area is expected to begin in 2004, with completion set for 2006. Cost of this section is approximately \$40 million.

The entire 20.2-mile road project will see VA Rt. 28 widened from two to four or six lanes between Manassas and the Remington area over the next few years. The work began with the construction of two Southbound lanes beginning about 1000 feet North of the Va. 28 intersection with Linton Hall Road.



EASTER ISSUE

## INSIDE

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Easter Week services and special events are scheduled at area churches...pages 4-6.

### Easter artistry

You'll never look at an ordinary egg the same, after viewing Carolyn Wysocki's beautiful Ukrainian Easter eggs...page 9.

### Good eating

Unique delivery of meats provides entertaining and enjoyable dining at new restaurant...pages 10-11.

### Point man

Meet Martin Briley, the man who has been convincing businesses that Prince William is the place to be...page 13.

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