

Thumbs up and thumbs down for Saturday, July 24, 2004 Saturday, July 24, 2004

UP Josie Velazquez and Darcel Harris deserve credit for being the main organizers of this year's Pennsylvania Avenue Block Party. More than 100 people attended the block party despite the light rain that fell. The party gets residents of the avenue out to meet each other and to unite against crime in the area. Representatives from the Carroll County Health Department and the Westminster City Police used the event to hand out materials.

UP The weather has been great for growing this year, especially the local favorite, sweet corn. Bryan Butler, an educator with the Carroll County office of the Maryland Cooperative Extension, says the corn is looking high and bountiful, and local ears are already being harvested and sold to consumers.

UP The lifting of water use restrictions in Taneytown is good news. The restrictions that had been in place since June in Taneytown have been lifted, now that the city has brought its most productive well back into service. Long-term water-related issues linger for Taneytown, however, and residents should keep water conservation in mind.

UP The Children's Chorus of Carroll County just got back from sharing their voices overseas. Twenty-four members of "Voce Viaggio" - Italian for "Traveling Voices" - visited Estonia, Finland and Sweden as part the Sister City Partnership program between Westminster and Paide, Estonia. The group returned to Carroll Wednesday evening and should have good answers at school when the question is asked, what did you do over the summer?

UP Steady progress is being made in renovations at the North Carroll Middle School. The renovations have been a long time coming for parents and students in that community, and while construction will continue in various phases as the school year begins, the result will be worth the wait.

UP The eight candidates who have thrown their hats into the political arena and are being considered today for an open House of Delegates seat deserve praise. The Republican Central Committee will interview the candidates to fill Del. Carmen Amedori's slot. Amedori was recently named to the state Parole Board.