

## Franchot Gives Harvey "Golden Apple," Shops Downtown Chestertown

Posted: Friday, December 7, 2012 12:33 pm | *Updated: 2:26 pm, Fri Dec 7, 2012.*

By **PETER HECK**[pheck@thekentcountynews.com](mailto:pheck@thekentcountynews.com) My Eastern Shore, Maryland

**CHESTERTOWN** - What better reward for a master gardener than a golden apple?

That's what Comptroller Peter Franchot gave Sabine Harvey, of the University of Maryland extension office in Kent County. Franchot awarded the first Maryland Golden Apple to Harvey for her work to create the Victory Garden at Kent County Middle School, Thursday.

In a ceremony on the school campus, next to the garden plot, which Harvey began planting in the spring of 2010, Franchot said the award is meant to recognize the "unsung heroes" in Maryland communities, particularly the many volunteers whose efforts often go unrecognized. He asked the student how the vegetables from the garden, used for salads in the school cafeteria, tasted. "Great!" chorused the assembled students.

Harvey, accepting the award, gave credit to the many others who supported the effort, including KCMS faculty member Ed Stack, who suggested the project to her, and the other teachers and students. She also thanked Judy Gifford, who raised money for the garden; Chestertown Optimists, who ran a water pipe so the gardeners wouldn't have to carry buckets from a "dying spigot" 150 feet away; and Maria Hynson, of the Washington College Center for the Environment and Society, who brought college students to help with the gardening.

Also present for the ceremony were delegate Jay Jacobs, Kent County Sheriff John Price, school board members Michael Harvey, Bryan Williams and Brian Kirby, and KCMS Principal Gary McCulloch.

Following the presentation, Franchot visited downtown Chestertown, where Mayor Margo Bailey took him on a shopping trip to locally owned businesses. Stops on the trip included the RiverArts gallery, Flow Salon and Spa, the Kent County Historical Society headquarters and shop, and Book Plate bookstore. Franchot bought several items, including framed artwork, a book on military history and a mystery novel, "Death on the Mississippi," by a local author.

Franchot emphasized the value of supporting local businesses, saying "My \$40 (for the artwork) will stay in this community." He said that 70 percent of the employment in the state is with small businesses, and urged residents to "get off the Internet" and spend their shopping dollars locally.

He spent some time in each of the shops, chatting with the owners about local business and their contributions to the economy. Also touring the shops with Bailey and Franchot were Loretta Lodge, of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce; Bernadette Bowman, of the Kent County Economic Development office, and Doris Mason, of the **Upper Shore Regional Council**.