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THE WEEK THAT WAS

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Sunday, July 9, 2006; SM13

News of interest to Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties published in the daily Post, July 2 to 8

Wednesday {vbar} 5**Dirt Farm**

The Mill Run Horse Farm, a 212-acre property that operates as a standard farm, is at the center of a dispute over the continuing evolution of Southern Maryland's agricultural landscape into exurban Washington. One of the region's most powerful developers, Facchina Construction Co., bought the farm in southwestern Charles County a few years ago and is petitioning to turn more than half of it into a mine to excavate dirt and gravel for the company's projects.

Some residents of the Welcome area where the farm lies have formed a coalition to challenge Facchina's plan. The proposal would add 200 trucks daily, back and forth, on the two-lane Port Tobacco Road, which neighbors claim already has its share of dump-truck traffic. Yet Paul Facchina Sr., chairman of the construction firm, has a reputation as one of the state's most ardent conservationists. He says that concerns are overblown and that he will restore the land as a corn and soybean farm when he is finished.