

December 2, 2015

Dear Friend:

Have you been caught in a traffic jam near the new 170,000 square foot mega church facility off Old Hundred Road? Did you hear the earthmovers constructing the road network for the second Potomac bridge crossing that could bisect the Ag Reserve? Is the area's emergency water reservoir threatened?

Thankfully the answer is 'NO' because Sugarloaf Citizens Association (Sugarloaf), and other allied organizations and neighbors, worked together to swiftly and effectively fight these threats and stop them in their tracks. An all-volunteer organization dedicated to preserving the Agricultural Reserve, Sugarloaf is your watchdog that identifies efforts to undermine the rural legacy of the Reserve—a national example. To defend and protect this precious and unique resource, we mount letter-writing and email blast campaigns, testify before the County Council or Planning Board and, when needed, hire environmental experts to prepare scientific support and land-use attorneys to press our cause in court.

Like many prior years, 2015 was a busy year for our volunteer team. Sugarloaf took action and met challenges on many different fronts, including:

- **Public Easement at Greentree Farms (formerly Barnesville Oaks) on Peachtree Road.** Sugarloaf testified before the Planning Board on the importance of keeping the original terms for the Greentree Farm development—approved by the Planning Board with the condition that a 3-mile trail along the property be put into easement and maintained by EPIC, which uses the gold standard for trail stewardship. The Planning Board chose to accept the developer's revised plat submission with new language, replacing "easement" with "covenant." This is a dangerous precedent, and Sugarloaf will work with EPIC and other concerned organizations to appeal the decision.
- **Second Potomac Bridge Crossing.** Governor Hogan recently decided to take another look at the feasibility of a second crossing and to fund another bridge study. Sugarloaf and other community stakeholders-- as well as Montgomery County elected officials --will meet with Maryland Transportation Secretary, Pete Rahn, to present research that demonstrates how another bridge crossing will not resolve traffic congestion and to advocate to instead explore widening the American Legion Bridge and public transit alternatives.
- **Broadband Access.** High speed broadband access is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity and widely considered an essential, core utility. Sugarloaf and other Ag Reserve stakeholders are working with county officials to expand broadband access well beyond the current pilot program to benefit all in the Ag Reserve—farmers, home-based businesses, students, and residents.
- **Ten Mile Creek Sewer Proposal.** Sugarloaf was one of the earliest members of the Ten Mile Creek Coalition (TMC) and supports *Friends of Ten Mile Creek* as they work to convince the WSSC to install environmentally-friendly sewer technologies in this sensitive watershed in Clarksburg.

- **Inaugural Creative Essay Contest.** Sugarloaf partnered with Poolesville High School (PHS) educators to design and rollout an essay contest. Ron Domingo, a PHS Senior, was declared the winner. The judges were impressed with how well Ron captured the spirit of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve with his own personal story, managing to lessen the distance between Poolesville, Maryland and Midsayap, Cotabato in the Philippines. Check out Ron's winning essay @ sugarloafcitizens.org.

None of this would have been possible without your support. From its inception nearly 43 years ago, Sugarloaf has been an all-volunteer organization, but it sometimes takes more than sweat to get the job done right. Land use attorneys, environmental experts, and communication tools to mobilize and inform supporters cost money. And we would not have realized the successes of this past year without investing in that expertise.

So, we thank you for your generosity in the past, and ask you to contribute again this year to help Sugarloaf protect the Agricultural Reserve. Members: please renew for only \$20. Non-members: please join us in the Sugarloaf Citizens Association for \$20. Friends of Sugarloaf -- those of you who reside outside of the Ag Reserve: please be a part of our fight for \$20. All who treasure the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve: contribute to Sugarloaf in the manner you best can, be it with your finances, your hard work or your expertise. Of course, donations in addition to your membership dues are welcome as well! If you prefer to donate or renew your membership online, you can do so @ sugarloafcitizens.org.

Again, thank you for your past and future support.

Warm wishes to you and your loved ones this holiday season!



Beth Daly
President, Sugarloaf Citizens Association

Please detach along line, complete, and mail in enclosed envelope.

- _____ I live in the Ag Reserve and would like to join Sugarloaf Citizens Association (\$20 per individual; \$40 family)
- _____ I live outside the Ag Reserve but would like to be a Friend of Sugarloaf Citizens Association (\$20 per individual; \$40 family)
- _____ Please accept my additional donation of \$_____.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address*: _____

Phone: _____

*We do not share email address information with other organizations