

## SCA October Newsletter Draft 2 (lp) Sept 24 2011

**BUSINESS** (before Pleasure!!):

***Special Benefit Permit:*** As we told you in our July 2011 newsletter, Sugarloaf Citizens Association and our partner groups, Montgomery Countryside Alliance and Audubon Naturalist Society, have been in dedicated communication with the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services for the last several months. SCA has shared our detailed work product concerning the enforcement problems with the Special Benefit Permit and encouraged consideration of our list of recommendations to improve the enforcement process without needing any legislative changes. (Both the July newsletter and the Special Benefit work product are available on the SCA website.)

A series of leadership changes at DPS over the course of the summer seems to have culminated in the naming of Diane Schwartz-Jones as the new head of DPS. Also, over the same period of time, we've learned that budget cuts have reduced the number of DPS inspectors from five to two. Although we are hopeful that our ideas will get the attention they deserve, we are also concerned about the lack of consistent leadership and adequate staffing in such an important division of our county government. We will continue our efforts to encourage proper enforcement of the Special Benefit Permit and the permitting process.

***Horticulture ZTA (Zoning Text Amendment):*** SCA is continuing to follow the progress of the Horticultural Green Industry Work Group and the proposed ZTA that, if passed, will bring huge changes to the Agriculture Reserve. We are particularly concerned about the idea to make landscaping businesses permitted "by right" rather than going through the Special Exception process. Again, we will continue to monitor the progress and content of this ZTA.

Now, business stated, let's move on to:

**PLEASURE:**

You are cordially invited to attend SCA's ***Potluck Dinner*** in the Barn on ***Sunday, October 23, 5-8 pm***, at Linden Farm 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.

- Sugarloaf will supply the best fried chicken in town and soft drinks.
- Wine and beer will be available.
- Live music will be performed by Carrie Donevan.
- Bring a dish to share with your friends and neighbors.
- NO business discussed! Come to relish the fun and fellowship of our community.