



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2010

"Protecting our rural legacy"

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Worse than the Snow!

We are all digging out from a major snow storm. While the entire region was impacted, people in the Agriculture Reserve experienced special challenges because of rural distances. Some lost power, most were stranded, and all of us had to dig ourselves out.

However, this storm brought out the best in our rural community. Neighbors helped each other, many volunteered to assist people who could not fend for themselves, and when we did see each other again, we all shared our blizzard stories. Our appreciation of the quality of rural life was reaffirmed and the spirit to protect the Agriculture Reserve from the threat of urban development was renewed.

Once again we have to fight the troubling plans of the Global Mission Church (GMC) to impose an outsize complex into the rural countryside of southern Frederick and northern Montgomery. The Frederick County Board of Appeals has kept the potential for the massive complex alive by agreeing with GMC's legal team that the denial by the Frederick Planning Board was unfair despite the attested legitimate concerns about the inadequacy of the proposed septic system and lack of adequate fire prevention measures.

The County imposes a discharge limit for septic systems of 4,999 gallons a day. While GMC and its attorneys insist that the growing congregation needs this mega church for future expansion, they also insist that water saving fixtures and disposable plates and tableware in the 500 seat dining hall will save enough water to prevent exceeding the legal discharge limit. We argue that a church of this size will not be able to respect the daily legal septic limit and furthermore that there are no monitoring agencies to make sure GMC will remain in compliance. As to the fire precautions, GMC now promises that another access road will be paved across woodlands and a wet weather stream bed!

We urge the Frederick Planning Board once again to look at the legitimate concerns and deny the construction of this complex that threatens our rural area. We believe that GMC should find a location that has city water and a sewer system commensurate with its needs.