



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2014

"Protecting our rural legacy"

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TEN MILE CREEK - WHAT FUTURE?

The reader of this newsletter might already have heard about the public meeting in Clarksburg on February 26 to save Ten Mile Creek. **Maybe you were there to help ensure that the County Council would not be hijacked by developers.**

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association was an early organizational member of the Coalition that was formed when it was discovered that the planned residential and commercial development of Clarksburg would have a devastating impact on Montgomery County's last, best stream and the region's nearby emergency drinking water supply, Little Seneca Reservoir. After hours of hearings and seven committee work sessions, County Council committees recommended specific plans on February 11 that would go to the full Council for a vote. These plans represented a compromise but were generally hailed as a first step to provide the most protection possible for Ten Mile Creek. The Council's initial vote on the joint committee's recommendation is now scheduled for March 4.

In a letter dated February 21 to the Council President and the members of the Council I stated **"We at Sugarloaf strongly – actually, vehemently - oppose any attempts to weaken the joint committee's compromise plan approved on February 11, 2014"** and continued "I am writing to urge you to act without further delay on a Ten Mile Creek Limited Master Plan Amendment that includes strict, enforceable protections for sensitive areas such as steep slopes and wetlands. While the joint committee's plan is far from full protection of our water resources, the recommendations rightly seek to minimize degradation of water quality by limiting development, with stricter imperviousness limits for the most fragile sub-watersheds." My letter ends

"We should all be proud of the intense, good faith efforts on all of our parts to reach such a viable, fair and balanced compromise to protect our last best creek and the cleanest source of water to our region's only nearby emergency drinking water supply, Little Seneca Reservoir. I urge you to stay the course, finish the job, and act quickly to approve the recommendations from the joint committees."

Sugarloaf urges all residents to write to the Council in support of the compromise plan.

**Jim Choukas-Bradley,
President**

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