



# **SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

## **June 2013**

"Protecting our rural legacy"

*How to contact us:*

*Sugarloaf Citizens' Association*

*James Choukas-Bradley, President*

*Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road*

*P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842*

Visit our Web site: [www.sugarloafcitizens.org](http://www.sugarloafcitizens.org)

## **WHY FIGHT FOR CLARKSBURG?**

A member of Sugarloaf's Board who lives in Dickerson recently attended a forum in Clarksburg concerned with the expansion of the Clarksburg development. Although Poolesville and our surrounding areas may be far away from Clarksburg we in Sugarloaf thinks it is important to remind readers of the Monocle that the AgReserve is under constant threat and what happens at the edge of the Reserve might have repercussions also for us. She wrote an inspired letter to the Gazette and here is our version.

Clarksburg — a rural community with its own storied history — was set aside long ago for "smart growth" development. It was an ideal target for such inspired planning because it is on the edge of Montgomery County farmland and attractive enough to grow into a real 21st-century self-contained village. It is also close enough to the greater metro area to be accessible to jobs down-county and even in the District of Columbia.

A moving moment at the forum was the presentation by a Clarksburg High School junior. This young man, who moved with his mom to Clarksburg when he was a little kid because of its promises as a self-contained "walkable community" with services and shopping nearby, candidly complained that there is no place in the Clarksburg community where he can hang out with his friends, and he is obliged to rely on his mom to drive him everywhere — to school activities, shopping and everything else.

Meanwhile, developers are racing to add thousands of more housing units and even outlet malls **without fulfilling their original commitment** to incorporate in Clarksburg the basic community components residents deserve, such as a library, local shopping areas, adequate schools and workable roadways.

This High School junior represented the first-generation casualty of the failed decades-old Clarksburg promise of a livable community. How many more families will have their investments devalued and their kids deprived of the promised living arrangements that were contemplated in the original Clarksburg plan?